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PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON CHERNENKO PEACE PROPOSALS

PM271933 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 84 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "To Ward Off the Nuclear Threat"]

[Text] These spring days are witnessing the attentive study and discussion by the political and public circles and government spheres of diverse countries of the program of large-scale constructive actions put forward in the name of universal peace by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade K.U. Chernenko in his speech to voters. His speech contains a clear and positive response to the question that is worrying millions of people: Is it possible to halt the slide toward the brink of war and to divert the course of international events into a peaceful channel?

This question is a natural one. The aggressive forces of American imperialism are feverishly accelerating the buildup of armaments, primarily nuclear armaments. They are seeking to break the military balance which has emerged between the USSR and the United States and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. According to figures provided by Western experts, the United States annually spends approximately $45 billion merely on the manufacture and storage of nuclear weapons, and it intends in the next few years to spend still greater amounts for these purposes. People across the ocean have set about creating new nuclear first-strike systems and are seeking to transfer the arms race to space. The threat to peace is increasing gravely as a result of West Europe's transformation into a launch site for Pershing II and cruise missiles targeted against the USSR and other countries of the socialist community.

In the face of these militarist preparations the CPSU and the Soviet state see their duty in ensuring the reliable defense and adequate security of the motherland and of our friends and allies. At the same time we express the profound conviction that mankind can and must avoid a nuclear conflict. Comrade K.U. Chernenko notes in this connection the key significance for peace and the people's security of the curbing of the nuclear arms race.

Our country, faithful to the Leninist principles of foreign policy, has always been and remains today a firm advocate of the prohibition and destruction of all types of these weapons. Soviet proposals on this burning problem occupy first place on the agenda of international life. The USSR has set an example of goodwill by pledging not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. At the latest, 38th, session of the UN General Assembly the representatives of the overwhelming majority of the world's countries approved the Declaration on the Condemnation of Nuclear War and the resolutions on a nuclear arms freeze and the prevention of the militarization of space.

The Soviet Union is ready to settle the problem of both "European" and strategic nuclear armaments on a mutually acceptable basis. Negotiations can be resumed at any moment, as soon as the United States eliminates the obstacles to this which it has erected by beginning the deployment of its new missiles in West Europe. At that time the need for defensive countermeasures by the USSR will also be removed. Such is the real path to an accord.

The reasonableness of the USSR's approach to this vital problem is being remarked upon by numerous foreign politicians and public figures. However, to this day there are no signs of the Washington administration's desire for agreement on the limitation and reduction of nuclear potentials on the basis of the principle of equality and identical security.

This negative stance is being sharply criticized by realistically minded people in the West, the United States included. The proposal put forward in the Soviet leader's speech concerning a form of codification of the relations among the powers possessing nuclear weapons is of a truly innovatory character. The vital interests of all mankind and state leaders' responsibility to the present and future generations demand that the relations between them be subject to definite standards. These standards must take into account the military-strategic situation on the planet and must emerge from the most important tasks of the consolidation of universal peace.

To view the prevention of nuclear war as the chief goal of foreign policy -- this, according to the Soviet initiative, is what must become the fundamental standard of the nuclear powers' mutual relations. Other principled propositions are logically connected with it -- namely, renunciation of the propaganda of nuclear war, and the adoption of the pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, not to employ them against nonnuclear countries on whose territory there are no such weapons, and to prevent their proliferation in any form. The following long-term task should also be enshrined in the nuclear powers' rules of conduct: to strive step by step, on the basis of the principle of identical security, for the reduction of nuclear weapons as far as their complete elimination in all their varieties.

The Soviet Union is invariably guided by these principles in its policy. Our country is prepared to come to an agreement with the other nuclear powers on the joint acknowledgement of the standards being proposed by it and on making them obligatory.

The observance of such a code of conduct would promote the curbing of the arms race and the creation of an atmosphere of trust between states. This would undoubtedly meet the fundamental vital interests of the peoples of the entire planet.

The Soviet Union's activity on behalf of universal peace is multifaceted. Our country is doing everything incumbent on it in order to exploit the available opportunities for a real change for the better both in the present dangerous development of events and in the exacerbated Soviet-American relations. The USSR favors an active quest for mutually acceptable practical solutions to specific issues in various directions. An appeal has been addressed to the United States to ratify the previously signed treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests and on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, to complete the elaboration of an agreement on the total prohibition of tests of this weapon, and to negotiate a reciprocal nuclear weapons freeze. All this could signal the start of a breakthrough in Soviet-American relations and in the entire international situation. It is up to Washington.

The consistent struggle of the CPSU and the Soviet state to avert the nuclear threat is ardently approved by our people and is encountering the broad support of people of goodwill throughout the world. The planet's peace-loving forces are filled with the determination to ward off the nuclear threat to mankind.

KORNILOV ON USSR, U.S. DISARMAMENT MOVES

LD271602 Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

The more obvious the dangers posed to Europe and the world by the deployment of new U.S. first-strike weapons in a number of West European NATO countries, the more energetic Washington and its allies are in their attempts to conceal and camouflage the essence and goals of their militarist course.

Another attempt of this sort has been made in Bonn, where official spokesmen echoed by certain capitalist newspapers and magazines make statements to the effect that the USSR is hewing to a "rigid position" in stating that any progress towards limiting nuclear arms in Europe is possible only on the condition that the USA shows readiness to return to the situation which existed before the deployment of U.S. Pershings and cruise missiles in Western Europe. They claim that Washington was holding talks at a time when the Soviet Union was building up its nuclear potential in Europe by deploying SS-20 missiles....

But what are real facts?

Just before the beginning of the talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe (1980), the USSR proposed a moratorium on medium-range nuclear weapons systems on the continent. The USA just needed to show goodwill and readiness to halt the arms race. Although Washington took a non-constructive stand, the Soviet Union, trying to facilitate a fair agreement and willing to set a good example, announced a unilateral moratorium in March 1982. The medium-range weapons already deployed in the European part of the USSR were frozen quantitatively and qualitatively.

Trying to belittle the importance of that major step and to smear Soviet policy, certain forces in the West, in particular, in West Germany, launched a propaganda campaign, claiming that the moratorium was not enough and that the USSR "ought to" reduce its missiles in the Asian part of the country. That matter, naturally, was totally unrelated to the talks on reducing nuclear arms in Europe. It was pressed in the West, moreover, by those who deliberately "disregarded" the threat posed to the Soviet Union by U.S. actions. Meanwhile, it is common knowledge that Japan and the seas around it, and also the Indian Ocean particularly the Diego Garcia base, are just bristling with U.S. nuclear weapons. Does the Soviet Union not have the right to have a counterbalance to these weapons to ensure its defences?

In October 1983 the USSR stated that if an agreement on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe was reached and put into effect, the deployment of SS-20 missiles would also stop in the eastern areas of the USSR and that the Soviet Union would firmly abide by that commitment on the condition that no substantial changes in the strategic situation in Asia took place. This meant, first and foremost, that the USA would not deploy new medium-range nuclear systems in areas from which they could reach the eastern part of Soviet territory.

It was only in November 1983, after the USA had blown up the Geneva talks by its actions, that the Soviet Union cancelled its unilateral obligations./

As we see, those who attempt to create the impression that the USA was conducting talks on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe at a time when the USSR "was deploying such weapons" are juggling with facts and deliberately distorting the actual picture. The purpose of Bonn's manoeuvre obviously is to try with the help of patently dishonest ploys to again hold up Washington -- and West Germany into the bargain -- as "champions of dialogue" which the Soviet Union is presumably "rejecting" and "turning its back upon."

The Soviet Union's line for ending the race in nuclear and other arms remains unchanged and the proposals of the Soviet Union on scaling down nuclear-missile confrontation in Europe are still standing. It is only necessary for the USA to show readiness to return to the situation which existed before the deployment of the U.S. missiles. However, far from showing this readiness, it obviously tries to head in the opposite direction. This fact has actually been confirmed anew by Bonn.

FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE ON ARMS STANCE REBUTTED

LD280744 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0646 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, 28 Mar (TASS) -- The more worried the peoples are about the United States' militarist course, the more actively Washington and its NATO allies try to mask the aggressive nature of this policy. The latest such attempt has been undertaken by the British paper FINANCIAL TIMES, which asserts, allegedly quoting statements by certain "well-informed Soviet specialists", that if the number of U.S. missiles already deployed in Western Europe were frozen, the Soviet Union could agree to halt the implementation of its military countermeasures. The FINANCIAL TIMES says this would provide an opportunity to resume negotiations on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe.

This is a deliberately false and distorted interpretation of the Soviet position. The Soviet Union has been and remains a resolute supporter of a practical and effective solution to the problem of limiting nuclear arms. Our country does not have to be convinced of the desirability of a dialogue on this question. The Soviet proposals both on "European" and on strategic nuclear weapons remain in force.

There is one essential condition for their implementation, and, accordingly, for the resumption of negotiations: the willingness of the United States to liquidate the obstacles it has created and to return to the situation which existed before the deployment of the new U.S. missiles, i.e., the withdrawal of the U.S. missiles from Western Europe. Without this, negotiations would be no more than a cover for the arms race and connivance with the Reagan administration's policies, which are harmful to the cause of peace. Our country has no intention of playing this game, as the Soviet Union has repeatedly stated.

This is the clear and precise position of the USSR. So why, one might ask, does such a respectable paper as the FINANCIAL TIMES throw dust in its readers' eyes and confuse them? This is clearly being done in an attempt to relieve the United States of the responsibility for the breakdown of the negotiations, to legitimize the deployment of the American first-strike weapons in Western Europe and to justify the U.S.-NATO course aimed at achieving military superiority.

GENERAL LEBEDEV QUESTIONED ON INF ISSUES

PM271457 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 23 Mar 84 p 5

[Interview with Soviet General Yuriy Lebedev by Raymond van den Boogard: "The Number of Missiles Is Unimportant"]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Mar -- The Soviet general seemed unable to suppress some sympathy for the worries of The Hague: "We know the difficult position of the Dutch people, which is connected with the pressure from the United States. The Dutch people do not want the missiles, but some people say that it is a NATO commitment to allow them on Dutch soil and it is difficult to escape this pressure."

Yuriy Viktorovich Lebedev, a 59-year-old Soviet general, acting head of a section of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, was part of the Soviet delegation at the INF talks in Geneva which were broken off by the Soviet Union when the first Pershing II and cruise missiles appeared in Western Europe. Prior to that he was an adviser to the Soviet delegation to the Soviet-U.S. SALT talks from early 1969.

Does it really make any difference to the Soviet Union whether 48, 32, or 16 cruise missiles are deployed in the Netherlands?

General Lebedev: "The question of whether there are 48, 32, or 16 is not of essential importance, because these numbers do not influence the political climate in Europe, but, alas, we would have to direct our countermeasures against each country where new arms are deployed."

Does this really make any difference to the Netherlands? There are already nuclear arms in the Netherlands; does that mean that the Soviet Union at present does not have nuclear arms targeted on the Netherlands?

"Indeed there is such a threat, but it has always been in balance with the threat to us. The deployment of new missiles destroys this balance, for which reason you are now seeing the arrival in the GDR and Czechoslovakia of new missiles on our side. And we will go through with this deployment, also in the event of deployment on Dutch territory."

The new threat to Dutch territory is necessary because the Pershing II can reach the Soviet Union in a much shorter time than the Soviet SS-20 is currently able to arrive at targets in Western Europe, according to General Lebedev. "But we are observing a strict regime of nuclear 'does'; we are only doing what the Americans are doing."

According to the general, the new missiles in the GDR and Czechoslovakia, described in the Soviet Union as "tactical-operational complexes," are already operational.

He said that "counterdeployment" in East Europe was forced on the Soviet Union by the actions of the United States and NATO, and that Moscow would have preferred to return to the old situation prior to deployment in Western Europe. In the last few months the Soviet Union has been saying repeatedly that the Geneva negotiations could be resumed if the West shows some "readiness" to return to the situation before the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles. Does that mean that NATO would have to withdraw the missiles it has already deployed? Or is it enough if NATO declares it readiness to withdraw missiles already deployed?

General Lebedev: "The United States would actually have to withdraw its missiles, practical deeds must be done, otherwise negotiations would again merely serve as a smokescreen for the deployment of new arms. We want the United States to remove its missiles."

The Soviet Union has also broken off the START talks on strategic nuclear arms. Does the requirement that the Pershing II and cruise missiles be withdrawn also apply to the resumption of the START talks?

The general: "Absolutely. If the missiles are removed both the INF and START talks could be resumed. But the difficulty is really twofold. The U.S. Administration is not only deploying new missiles, but has now destroyed the whole negotiating process. In the past we did business with Nixon, with Ford, with Carter.... Of course there were still serious difficulties, disagreements, but the Americans were always interested in reaching accords. The present U.S. Administration has no such interest and rejects agreements that have already been reached."

However, the idea that there are really two conditions for a resumption in Geneva -- the removal of the new NATO missiles and a Democratic victory in the U.S. presidential election -- is going too far for General Lebedev: "What is decisive is the removal of the missiles. The other thing, to put it one way, is a subjective factor. Finally it is possible that the U.S. Administration will begin to behave differently. We will never become friends, but in the final analysis what is at stake is saving the planet."

Later in the interview he aired Moscow's concern over the new generation of nonnuclear arms (lasers, vacuum bombs, and so on) outlined in the so-called Roger plan. "The development of these radical weapons of a new generation of nonnuclear arms will be just as dangerous as nuclear arms. In practice they are also weapons of mass destruction."

General Lebedev also called for understanding of the Soviet countermeasures against the deployment of new NATO nuclear missiles. In doing so he pointed to the 20 million victims on the Soviet side after a militarily ill-equipped Soviet Union was taken by surprise by an attack from Nazi Germany. "We have the right not to put ourselves in a situation similar to the one which existed in 1941."

Confronted with the remarks that the very same line of argument -- our weakness in the face of Nazi Germany in 1940 -- was used in the Netherlands as the best argument for abandoning the traditional Dutch prewar policy of neutrality and seeking firm ties with NATO, General Lebedev said: "Fear of the Soviet Union does not exist in Western Europe itself; it is imported from outside, artificially and very deliberately. Now people in Western Europe are hesitant about deploying new missiles or not. Let people remember that help from outside makes no contribution to Western Europe's security by any means."

GENEVA CONFERENCE STUDIES SPACE MILITARIZATION

LD261353 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Disarmament Conference continues at the Geneva Palais des Nations. Our correspondent Vzevolod Shishkovskiy has the sotry:

[Begin Shishkovskiy recording] The two latest plenary sessions of the Geneva forum were devoted to a discussion of one of the principal items on the agenda: averting an arms race in space. Almost all the speakers stressed the exceptional importance of an earliest possible solution to this problem. The trouble is that if urgent and effective measures are not drawn up to foil Washington's plans for the militarization of space, humanity will be faced with a fresh threat, on a scale difficult even to imagine at present.

The Soviet Union's principled approach to the tackling of this problem was praised repeatedly at the conference. This approach was again reaffirmed in the speech by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in which he firmly urged that the arms race should not be transferred to new spheres, including space. At the same time, Comrade Chernenko noted that the United States could also make no small contribution to strengthening peace by agreeing to an accord on renouncing the militarization of space.

The appeal to American leaders is not fortuitous in this context since recent events clearly show that an ever-increasing role is being assigned to the use of space hardware in Washington's strategic calculations. These militarist plans are meeting with vehement condemnation from the participants in the Geneva forum. In this connection, many delegates point out that the American delegation -- and this is evidently not fortuitous -- is openly blocking talks on preventing the militarization of space.

We express the firm conviction -- declared Viktor Israelyan, the head of the Soviet delegation, in his speech at the session -- that the drawing up of measures to prevent an arms race in space could be started at the current session of the Disarmament Conference. To this end, political goodwill needs to be shown by all the states represented at the conference. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, our country will continue to do everything in its power to ensure that the sinister plans for transferring the arms race to space do not become a reality, the Soviet representative said in conclusion. [end recording]

Delegates Call for Ban

LD272023 Moscow TASS in English 1856 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Geneva March 27 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports:

The time has come to begin to draft and adopt practical and effective measures to resolve the problem of averting the nuclear arms race in outer space, Milos Vejvoda, the leader of the Czechoslovak delegation to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, said at a plenary meeting today. One of such measures could be the establishment at the conference of an ad hoc committee with the mandate to deal with that matter.

The Czechoslovak delegate stressed that the imperative need for such steps, which was recognized by virtually all the participants in the discussion both at the Geneva conference and at the U.N. General Assembly, was caused by the escalation of the race in space weapons by the United States.

The proposal to establish an ad hoc committee to facilitate the conclusion of concrete international agreements prohibiting the use of outer space for military purposes was supported by the leader of the Argentine delegation, J.S. Carasales.

Ambassador Nguyen Thuong, the permanent representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the U.N. Geneva office, stated the position of the government of his country on major aspects of ending the arms race and removing the threat of nuclear war. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam had been invited to participate in the Geneva conference without being listed as a permanent participant. Concerned for world peace and the survival of mankind, he said, Vietnam cannot help showing worry over the threat of nuclear conflict, which has grown dramatically during the recent years because of the aggressive policy of imperialism.

U.S. 'DECEIT' IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS ASSAILED

LD271932 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The leaders of the United States and the NATO countries are continuing to persuade the world public that sooner or later the Soviet Union will return to the talks on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, despite the deployment of American Pershings and cruise missiles. Political observer Vladimir Tsvetov is at the microphone:

[Tsvetov] Assertions of this kind have become ritual, both for the President of the United States, Reagan, and for the leaders of the NATO countries. However, frequent repetition does not make these assertions more true, nor, consequently does it increase trust in them among Americans and West Europeans, inasmuch as U.S. tactics in the question of the deployment in Europe of medium-range nuclear weapons have become extremely obvious. Proceeding from previous experience, these tactics can be outlined as follows: to resume talks in the conditions when Pershings and cruise missiles will be deployed on European territory and to create in this way the appearance that the United States is not refusing to work out an accord with the Soviet Union; then, to wreck the talks again, and, making use of this, to take a new step toward achieving nuclear superiority over the USSR; then, to call again for talks with the intention of wrecking them yet again and advance even further the race for world nuclear leadership. Thus, the United States needs the talks to mislead the world public, which is being profoundly alarmed by Washington's policy.

It goes without saying that the Soviet Union cannot agree and will never agree to assisting American deceit.

The USSR has stated repeatedly that it will sit down at the negotiating table on Euromissiles, but only in a single case: If the United States returns to the situation that existed in Europe prior to the deployment there of American Pershings and cruise missiles.

Any wiles by the American Administration and the Western European leaders who are echoing it, any attempts to substitute another question for the question of the deployment of Pershings and cruise missiles in order to resume the talks without returning to the situation existing previously will not bring any success.

The Soviet Union's position is clear and principled: The talks on Euromissiles must be conducted for reducing, and, in the final analysis, for liquidating on the European Continent medium-range nuclear weapons and not for covering up U.S. actions designed for preparations to inflict the first nuclear strike against the Soviet Union.

KORIONOV ON PACT MILITARY SPENDING INITIATIVE

PM271339 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[Article by PRAVDA political observer Vitaliy Korionov: "An Initiative of Major Significance"]

[Text] The battle to improve the world's political atmosphere being waged by the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries requires intensive effort. They are bringing to the forefront of international life problems affecting the fundamental interests of the peoples by focusing on these very problems the attention of governments and the world public.

"As a great socialist power," CPSU Central Committee General Secretary K.U. Chernenko said, "the Soviet Union is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for maintaining and strengthening peace. We are amenable to peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation with states on all continents. We advocate the peaceful solution of all international disputes by means of serious, equal, and constructive negotiations."

Peace-loving people see the new initiative put forward by the Warsaw Pact states, which have proposed to the NATO countries the commencement of consultations, followed by talks, on the question of not increasing and reducing military expenditure, as further convincing evidence of this policy. This initiative is a logical continuation of the glorious tradition of the socialist countries' foreign policy.

"Disarmament is a socialist ideal" -- this Leninist proposition has been and still is a rallying cry for us.

The Soviet delegation's statement at the Genoa international conference as long ago as 10 April 1982 said: "The Russian delegation intends...to propose a general reduction of armaments and to support any proposal aimed at easing the burden of militarism on condition that the armies of all states are reduced and a total ban on the most barbarous forms of war is added to the rules of war." Since that time the Soviet Union and now the other socialist community countries have carried high the banner of struggle to curb the arms race and effect disarmament.

In September 1954 the USSR put forward at the Ninth UN General Assembly session a draft resolution on concluding an international convention on the question of reducing armaments and banning atomic, nuclear, and other types of mass destruction weapons.

The draft envisaged a commitment by states to reduce military appropriations to the 1953 level. In May 1955 the USSR submitted to the United Nations a package of proposals which included a restatement of the question of reducing military expenditure. In March 1957 our country, proposing a cut in military budgets, recommended that some of the resources thus released be redirected to the needs of states that had freed themselves from colonialism. The USSR made other proposals of that kind in subsequent years.

It is useful to recall the joint actions of the socialist community countries. The Prague Political Declaration adopted by the Warsaw Pact states on 5 January 1983 said: "Bearing in mind the fact that the increasing military expenditure is directly associated with the intensification of the arms race, the conference participants call upon the NATO countries to reach a practical accord on not increasing military expenditure and on subsequently reducing it in percentage or absolute terms. An accord on this question must, of course, embrace all states possessing a large military potential.

The resources released by the reduction of military expenditure would be used for the purposes of economic and social development, including assistance for developing countries in this sphere." At the Moscow meeting on 28 June 1983 the leading party and state figures of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the USSR, and Czechoslovakia once again urged the NATO countries to immediately start talks on this question.

But the achievement of an accord plays no part in the aggressive military plans of the United States and its NATO allies. Washington wants a free hand to be able to implement an unbridled arms race. According to press figures, the present U.S. Administration is spending over $570 million on this reckless undertaking every day. As a result, according to estimates made by the authoritative international commission headed by Willy Brandt, in half a day as much is spent on military purposes as would finance, for example, a program to eradicate malaria worldwide.

But the imperialist "magnates of death" are not concerned about the needs and aspirations of the people. What concerns them is making sure they obtain their fantastic profits out of the arms race. In fact, in 1983 U.S. monopolies acquired profits of over $246 billion and the shares of the eight biggest U.S. military corporation rose by an average of 82 percent compared with the beginning of 1982.

The be-all and end-all of the policy of the United States and its NATO allies is an unbridled arms race and the buildup of military strength, with which they want to dictate to other countries and peoples.

The socialist countries are currently making a new effort to eliminate the dangerous trend imperialism is imposing on the development of international relations and direct this development onto a path that accords with the fundamental interests of all peoples. The Warsaw Pact states have expressed their readiness to join the NATO countries in making a mutual effort to seek realistic solutions on a mutually acceptable basis and to determine the possibilities of surmounting the difficulties that may arise during the examination of the question of not increasing and of reducing military expenditure. They urged the NATO states to act in this spirit.

The Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries have an innate and constant desire to act like Lenin: As many of the simplest and clearest decisions and steps as possible that will actually lead to peace. This is what characterizes the proposals made by the Warsaw Pact states on 5 March to the NATO countries.

Not increasing and reducing military expenditure is a matter for all states. At the same time, the implementation of these measures primarily by the states that account for the largest proportion of this expenditure -- that is, the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries -- would be particularly significant.

In an effort to put the solution of this question on a practical footing, the socialist countries are proposing a number of specific measures on top of the proposals contained in the Prague Declaration and Moscow Statement.

First: The implementation, on the basis of mutual example, of a small, symbolic, single reduction in states' military budgets, each state deciding on the size of the reduction, with the subsequent freezing of these budgets for 3 years, which would facilitate the transition to more radical reductions of military budgets via subsequent negotiations.

Second: A single reduction, as a first step, of the military budgets of members of military political groupings possessing nuclear weapons by a pre-agreed amount; the actual size of each country's reduction could be a proportion of the agreed sum in relation to GNP.

Third: The reduction of the relevant states' military budgets in connection with the implementation of specific disarmament measures, which could be elaborated in the course of negotiations, each of the sides naming, on the attainment of the relevant accords, the amount by which it is going to reduce its military budget.

Fourth: The mutually agreed establishment of military budget ceilings that would be lower than the existing levels.

True to the cause of international cooperation, the Warsaw Pact states declared their readiness to study proposals on other measures relating to not increasing and reducing military expenditure. Striving for an honest and constructive dialogue, the socialist countries are urging the members of the other grouping to make every possible effort, to hold businesslike negotiations in a positive spirit, and to take steps facilitating the creation of a favorable atmosphere for their progress, not to take action which might hinder them.

There was great interest all over the world in the socialist community countries' constructive new initiative. "This proposal," the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI wrote, "is seen as evidence of the peaceful aspirations of the Soviet leadership and its allies and their intention to ensure a reduction of tension in relations between East and West." "It is the second time this year that the socialist states have presented the NATO countires with a concrete proposal," Finland's SATAKUNNAN TYUE noted. "Thess initiatives are geared to reducing international tension and strengthening detente. The socialist states' proposals are sensible and they must be given every support." "The socialist countries' new initiative is the second this year," the West German paper UNSERE ZEIT stated, "and it again shows the way out of a dangerous blind alley.... Halt the arms race before it destroys mankind -- this is the main idea behind the new initiative. Who is against that?"

But there are those who are against it and they have wasted no time in showing themselves. Wary about overtly opposing the socialist countries' peace-loving proposals, the supporters of the arms race are restoring to far-fetched reservations and fraudulent maneuvers.

In a special statement on the matter the U.S. State Department announced that "only a reduction of military potentials, not of actual military budgets, will really contribute to the strengthening of security." It is futile, however, to search Washington's documents even for a hint of any proposal on the reduction of military potentials. In fact, all Washington's thoughts are directed, as is known, toward endlessly increasing the might of the aggressive U.S. military machine.

General Rogers of the United States, supreme allied commander Europe, immediately joined the battle against the very idea of reducing military expenditure. Addressing the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, he urged the United States to continue to be the "epitome of a state that is prepared to considerably increase defense expenditure even when the economy is going through a difficult period." The kind of "defense" the NATO generals are talking about can be seen from another statement by Rogers who unhesitatingly told the aforementioned committee of "NATO's readiness to escalate a conflict even to the point of first use of nuclear weapons."

The socialist countries cannot regard it as productive dialogue when empty statements pour from the other side's diplomatic offices and NATO Headquarters implements monstrous arms programs. What we advocate is businesslike, fruitful dialogue.

The socialist countries are filled with unswerving determination to rid the peoples of the burden of military expenditure. The struggle to curb the arms race and ease the threat of war has been and will remain the pivotal avenue of the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and Soviet state.

START OF PACT EXERCISES IN GDR REPORTED

PM271509 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 84 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "'Yug-84' Exercises"]

[Text] Berlin, 26 Mar -- In accordance with the plan of the Warsaw Pact states' Joint Armed Forces, the "Yug-84" joint troops exercises began today in the south GDR, ADN agency reports. Taking part in the exercises are the staffs, units, and subunits of the GDR National People's Army, the Polish Army, and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

There have been numerous meetings of the brothers-in-arms -- the servicemen of the GDR, Polish, and USSR Armed Forces -- at which they have confirmed their determination to act shoulder-to-shoulder to achieve the exemplary fulfillment of the forthcoming combat training tasks and the further enhancement of their readiness to defend the gains of socialism.

MORE ON PRAGUE MEETING OF CEMA SCI-TECH PANEL

PM271316 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Course of Cooperation"]

[Text] Prague, 24 Mar -- The 30th session of the CEMA Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in Prague 21-23 March. Taking part in it were representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, the SRV, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR, the CSSR, and also the SFRY.

The committee examined questions linked with the elaboration of a comprehensive long-term program for the scientific and technical progress of the CEMA countries. Measures were agreed on to further develop cooperation in the sphere of industrial robotics and the broad use of microprocessor equipment, which are of prime importance for the CEMA countries' economies.

There was a discussion of questions linked with the implementation of the plan for the accelerated development of science and technology in Cuba covering the period through 1990 and the fulfillment of the program for developing Mongolia's scientific and experimental base in the same period.

The session participants familiarized themselves with information on the fulfillment of previously adopted decisions to coordinate the CEMA countries' national economic plans for 1986-1990 and on the elaboration of long-term comprehensive measures aimed at ensuring the CEMA countries' requirements for power, fuel, and raw materials and examined a number of other questions of scientific and technical cooperation. Appropriate resolutions were adopted on the results of the session.

SOVIET ECONOMIST URGES CEMA SELF-SUFFICIENCY

LD272325 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1245 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From the "Countries of Socialism" program, presented by Vladimir Pasko, with Geliy Ivanovich Shmelev, doctor of economic sciences and head of USSR Academy of Sciences Agrarian Section of the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System]

[Text] [Pasko] The all-union economic conference on problems of the agro-industrial complex, which opened yesterday, is a major event in our country. Some of the largest agencies reported on it.

Taking part in our broadcast today is Geliy Ivanovich Shmelev, doctor of economic sciences and head of the USSR Academy of Sciences Agrarian Section of the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System. Geliy Ivanovich, the development of agriculture in the [CEMA] countries is attracting heightened attention abroad. But assessments are often diametrically opposed. While many developing countries stress the positive experience of socialism, imperialist propaganda paints quite a somber picture of the state of affairs.

[Shmelev] We are of course opposed to exaggerating the successes achieved in the development of agriculture, but we cannot permit their being ignored or allow denigration of the positive aspects of what has been achieved in the agrarian sector of the economy. In total, gross agricultural output of the CEMA countries rose from 10 to 76 percent between 1970 and 1982. For many CEMA countries, 1983 did not achieve a stable and dynamic increase in the yields and productivity of livestock. They are carrying out much work aimed at the intensification of production, improvement of lands and improvement of the genetic properties of plants and animals. Substantial prerequisites are being set up for a qualitative breakthrough in the development of agriculture.

The USSR Food Program enshrines important measures for improving agriculture and raising economic efficiency.

[Pasko] Bourgeois writers are trying to present it as some kind of divergence from socialist principles.

[Shmelev] The Food Program is oriented precisely around a consistent implementation of the laws and principles of socialism, which ensure a dynamic and consistent development of the economy. Extending the economic autonomy of participants in the production process of the agro-industrial complex does not undermine the planned lines of the economy, the bases of socialist property, and does not lead to isolation of enterprises, but opens the way to strengthening their coordinated work on the basis of mutually advantageous relations of agreement between partners. The Food Program envisages measures for stepping up material incentives for workers in agriculture to increase production and raise its quality, and they correspond fully to the economic law of socialism: to distribute according to the work done. The measures for further improving the living conditions of the rural population accord with the cardinal economic law of socialism, and there is no attempt here to transfer the experience of American agro-business into the Soviet system, as was claimed by one American author.

[Pasko] Geliy Ivanovich, in the West they are examining our private subsidiary farming through a magnifying lens, contrasting it with public farming.

[Shmelev] They exaggerate its significance in the economy, like the character in the well-known Krylov fable who could not understand the causal relationship between the acorns and the oak. This method of farming is an integral part of socialist agriculture. It has the same aim as social production, is conducted by the same workers who work in kolkhozes and sovkhozes and is carried out on public land with the help of public production funds. As of late, thanks to agreements concluded, it is becoming steadily coordinated and integrated with public farming. We connect prospects for significantly increasing agriculture production with kolkhozes and sovkhozes. There is no turning back in history.

[Pasko] And another question, Geliy Ivanovich: A number of Western authors, and particularly (Lazarcek), assert that the dependence of socialist countries on capitalist countries is growing with regard to the development of agriculture. In this they lay emphasis on our purchases -- primarily feed crops, oil cake, soybeans, and vitaminized supplements for livestock.

[Shmelev] These predictions remain unsubstantiated. In recent years, the CEMA countries which import feed have managed, as a result of raising grain production, to effect certain changes in the structure of stock-breeding and reduce the import of feed grain from capitalist countries by using concentrated feed more rationally. Thus, Czechoslovakia's average annual import of grain in 1981-83 was almost half that in the previous 5-year plan.

[Pasko] But these purchases continue, nonetheless.

[Shmelev] The socialist countries, as was noted at the May 1982 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, do not reject the idea of supplementing their food resources by means of foreign trade, including with capitalist countries, bearing in mind economic expediency, increasing the range of foodstuffs available and other factors.

[Pasko] But the West, and primarily the United States, is trying to use these sales to exert political pressure. You will recall the recent embargo on Poland, or even on the Soviet Union.

[Shmelev] The discriminatory measures rebounded on the United States. U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block described the embargo on sales of feed grain to the Soviet Union as a complete failure. He noted that the USSR had no trouble buying this produce from a number of other countries. At the same time, the grain embargo caused substantial damage not only to farmers but to the entire U.S. economy. The loss of every billion dollars from grain exports turned into a loss of 350,000 jobs for the United States and also entailed additional economic costs. Furthermore, the undermining of trust in the United States as a trade partner was an adverse effect of the embargo.

[Pasko] Nevertheless, the United States is still trying to use trading in agricultural raw materials and foodstuffs as an instrument of influencing the domestic and foreign policy of the socialist countries. The relevant doctrine has even been drafted there -- the so-called doctrine of food power. Literature has appeared instructing how best to implement it. I am talking of the book "Food As an Instrument of Foreign Policy."

[Shmelev] The attempts of imperialist powers to turn the normal commercial operations for the sales of grain and other agricultural foodstuffs to the socialist countries into a means of political pressure makes it essential to raise self-sufficiency and reduce imports of agricultural raw materials and foodstuffs from the capitalist countries. I would like to stress the following: The achievements of agriculture in the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries and its development trends refute the gloomy predictions of the Western pundits. The agrarian policy of the communist and workers' parties aimed at increasing agricultural production and raising its efficiency is yielding results. The decisions adopted on this level and practical measures being implemented make us confident that the tasks which have been set before agriculture and the national agro-industrial complex will be fulfilled, just as they were in other branches of the national economy.

INTERIMPERIALIST ECONOMIC RELATIONS ANALYZED

PM271243 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 84 First Edition pp 3-4

[Article by A. Yakovlev, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of World Economics and International Relations, under the rubric "Questions of Theory": "Imperialism Rivalry and Contradictions"]

[Text] The splitting of the world into two civilizations, the formation and strengthening of the socialist community, the collapse of the colonial system, and the shaping of the new military-strategic situation of the nuclear age have cardinally changed the conditions of capitalism's struggle for its survival and compicated them. And, as a conseqeunce, these conditions have an impact on the process of the modification and certain deformation of the natural laws of capitalism and inevitably impart distinctiveness to their nature, to their operating mechanism, and to their methods of resolving contradictions.

The social change in the life of mankind and the other large-scale events occasioned by this, had a stimulating effect on both trends in interimperialist relations -- centripetal and centrifugal. On the whole, they forced the bourgeoisie to unite and form a bloc, particularly in the struggle against the forces of socialism and progress, to accept still greater cosmopolitanism, and to seek more flexible compromise forms of settling conflicts and disagreements than before. But the course of events has demonstrated the futility of attempts to remove the fundamental contradictions of capitalism -- history does not give capitalism this opportunity.

Of course, even today states, where the monopolistic bourgeoisie governs, and coalitions and groupings of these states constitute links of the world system of imperialism, united by common aims. This sometimes appears as the chief trend of imperialism nowadays. But real life is determined, above all, by the fact that state monopoly capitalism is now at the historic phase of the worsening of the basic conditons of its development and, above all, of the mechanism of reproduction of capital -- which cannot fail to affect the relations prevailing within the system of nationally isolated imperialisms.

The seventies and the early eighties have been marked by a qualitative change in the course of the general crisis of the world capitalist system. The ineradicable difference in the economic, social, and political interests of national imperialisms and the competitive struggle and fierce rivalry in very different spheres of international relations are undermining and distintegrating the front of world capitalism. Under capitalism all progress is accompanied "also by the 'progress' of contradiction, that is, by their exacerbation and expansion" (V.I. Lenin: "Complete Collected Works," Vol 2, p 180).

At the present stage of imperialism has become more strongly entangled than ever in internal and interstate antagonisms, upheavals, and conflicts. Its aggressive as Comrade K.U. Chernenko pointed out at the CPSU Central Committee Extraordinary February (1984) Plenum, are creating "now in one part and now in another part of the world very dangerous hotbeds of bloody violence and military conflagrations." In its theoretical assessments our party has always proceeded from the profound scientific validity of Lenin's teaching on the contradictions characteristic of imperialism as a system.

As is known, the law of the unevenness of capitalism's economic and sociopolitical development at its imperialist stage constitutes the objective basis of the trend which "sets some imperialists against others" (V.I. Lenin). Acting in a particularly contradictory and convulsive manner on the narrowed basis of imperialist supremacy, under the conditions of the collapse of the colonial system and the scientific and technical revolution, it creates a nutrient medium for constant movement in the balance of forces of individual financial groups, bourgeois states, and their various combinations.

The peculiarity of the modern situation consists in the fact that, over and above the traditional interstate confrontation, a new, sharply clashing rivalry between the three main centers of imperialism has arisen and developed and has become the predominant from now on. The scale and might of these centers (the United States, West Europe, and Japan) have no analogue in history. Precisely they have today become substantial components of world influence, and not only in the system of imperialism but also in international relations as a whole. As the integration process is accelerated in West Europe and as Japan rises to the rank of a world economic power, these "power centers" are creating a real counterweight to U.S. hegemony in the world of capitalism. The multifaceted nature and the scale of the consequence of this process are undoubted.

The U.S. share of the total gross domestic product of the world's nonsocialist zone has fallen from 47 percent in 1950 to 37 percent at the present time. West Europe has surpassed the United States in terms of the scale of industrial production and become the chief center of international capitalist trade. In 1982 it exported more than three times as many goods (in terms of value) as the United States. It now has at its disposal almost one-half of all the capitalist world's currency reserves, or approximately 10 times as much as the transatlantic competitor. The "land of the rising yen," have shot up to second place among capitalist states in terms of its general economic and, in particular, its industrial strength, is in turn continuing to narrow the gap separating it from the United States. Competitors have throroughly squeezed the United States in the world capitalist economy. And there is no way the United States can still consider itself a symbol of the Western world's "youth, dynamism, and success."

The relative equilibrium of imperialism's three centers in terms of the level of development of productive forces and the degree of concentration of production and capital constitutes the background and the basis on whose oil the spasmodic nature of their economic development is intensifying, giving rise to more and more new and increasingly dangerously explosive flareups of the competitive struggle. Having strengthened their economic positions, the leading West European countries and Japan are seeking a change in the structure of imperialist partnership in their favor. The tough American leadership is becoming increasingly burdensome for the new "power centers," and there is a growing tendency for them to pursue an independent economic and foreign policy and adopt decisions which far from always coincide with U.S. interests.

Thus, the U.S. economic and political hegemony which took shape in the first postwar decades has now undoubtedly been shaken. The course of this process is highly complex, and its consequences are ambiguous. The singularity of the situation consists in the fact that monocentrism in economics and politics is being replaced by polycentrism, while preserving in the capitalist world the military hegemony of American imperialism with its global structure of nuclear bases and troops of occupation. Given this movement of the base factors of the world structure, interimperialist contradictions cannot fail to become exacerbated and grow particularly tense, since the further strengthening of imperialism's non-American centers is being slowed down by the permanent U.S. political pressure backed up by the military presence and by the partners' diverse forms of military dependence. This is particularly topical now that Washington is stepping up its offensive against the other two centers of modern capitalism, widening the scale and intensifying the nature of its onslaught. This is evidenced by the "muscle-flexing" in the foreign economic sphere, the policy of "hiking" interest rates, the high rate of exchange for the dollar, and currency and credit hegemonism.

It is self-evident that in any case the centrifugal trend -- toward the disintegration and splitting up of its constituent parts -- will increase in the capitalist world in the historically foreseeable future. This is one of the reasons for the nervousness of the U.S. ruling clique, which has now concentrated on the idea of the military consolidation of the system of imperialism with a view, inter alia, to maintaining its political and economic leadership in the long term. The United States would like to arrange everything, to use Lenin's words, "according to capital," "according to strength," primarily by military means or political blackmail.

So, the present exacerbation of interimperialist contradictions is largely being promoted by the present American Administration's general strategy aimed at regaining its lost world positions. Having turned the nuclear spearhead of confrontation more sharply against the socialist system, the American ruling elite is also trying to crush its own "class brothers." But, of course, it is not just a question of Washington's messianic pretensions to preserving its dominant positions. A certain base is objectively being preserved for such designs. Despite the drop in its share in the world system of the capitalist economy, the United States still remains its major economic force and the chief center of scientific and technical progress. The transatlantic power has become the biggest importer of capital, but at the same time it is still its chief exporter and the leading supplier of food to the world market. This situation will very likely be maintained until the end of the 20th century.

Consequently, the relative weakening of the world positions of the chief center of economic rivalry is proceeding far from quickly or straightforwardly. The general trend of this development, which has come to light in recent decades, is accompanied by turns and backtracking and is painful for all the "power centers."

It is perfectly natural that in the situation of more frequent world economic crisis the struggle among the chief imperialist centers and states has become especially acute and tough. Under conditions of commodity overproduction each of the competitors seeks, to use K. Marx' expression, to escape with the smallest losses possible, and he does not care about his neighbors. There has now been a sharp increase in "economic nationalism."

Tension in interimperialist relations has become more conflict-ridden and explosive in its nature and potential since the locomotive of war and aggression of modern imperialism built up speed under R. Reagan's administration. Creating and stepping up the direct threat to mankind's very existence, the U.S. plutocracy is seeking to derive benefit for itself even from this situation and, so to speak, to hold "a feast during a plague." Supposedly in the "interests of the security" of the West and its "political solidarity" in the face of the "Soviet military threat" and the "offensive of world communism" the present American Administration is trying to get the West European countries and Japan to curtail their trade and economic ties with the socialist community, which are vitally important to them. It is also trying to shift onto their shoulders the most extravagant forms of the arms race. American imperialism is using strictly in its own egoistic interests the two-faced stand of many NATO countries on these questions.

Thus, Washington is, in particular, using the noisy campaign calling for a "global anti-communist policy" in order, in point of fact, also to undermine the economies of its competitors. The multipurpose confrontation strategy is designed to involve America's allies in realizing the hegemonist U.S. plans, to weaken their competitive positions in world markets, and, at the same time, to reduce its own military burden, which is becoming excessive even for the citadel of capitalism. In the final analysis, new forms of interimperialist contradictions also find expression in the surges of tension orchestrated in the world by the United States.

The system of imperialist states is divided up not only into "power centers," into opposed coalitions and blocs of countries, and into currency and other zones. Monopoly competition has a strong disintegrating effect on it. It has now become unprecedentedly fierce, for clashes are taking place between huge national and international corporations. Their arena is the whole capitalist world.

The competitive struggle among the detachments of financial capital in different countries is not only not diminishing but is increasing despite the continuing international interweaving of capital and the formation of a multinational financial oligarchy.

Multinational corporations, possessing vast resources (by 1982 they controlled enterprises which produce 28 percent of the capitalist world's gross domestic product) and a broad network of foreign branches, adapt very promptly to changing conditions, shifting the center of gravity in their activity from one sector of production or from one country to another.

Realizing the aim of ensuring monopoly profits, multinational corporations introduce additional disproportions and increase production anarchy within the framework of the entire capitalist economic system. As the British economist C. Tugendhat remarked, what is good for General Motors cannot at the same time by equally good for Britain, the FRG, Belgium, and many other countries. The "nations versus multinational corporations" conflict is becoming increasingly acute in the economics and politics of the capitalist world. Surpassing even entire states in terms of economic strength, the most powerful multinationals, which came into being, above all, on American soil, do not take any particular notice of national legislation, the regulation of economic life, or the domestic and foreign policy of "small" countries. Japanese and West European multinationals, whose products frequently prove more competitive than American ones, are increasingly actively being drawn into the circle of the biggest industrial multinationals. Of the 30 multibillionaire multinationals (excluding oil corporations) at the beginning of the eighties the United States accounted for 5, while West Europe accounted for 9.

The conflict-ridden nature of the development of the world capitalist economy is being intensified by the outbreaks of trade and currency wars which are tearing it apart. Under modern conditions they are primarily trade-political wars and wars involving prices, interest rates, credits, and even standards.

In the majority of cases, the United States is the initiator of protectionist measures. Its assurances of its adherence to the policy of "liberalizing" international trade have proved to be a bluff. While accusing the West European countries and Japan of all mortal sins, it has sharply swung its own trade and economic policy course in the direction of protectionism. The American press calls the intensive invasion of U.S. markets by Japanese goods an "economic Pearl Harbor." Under the new conditions the Far Eastern power, mounting a strong offensive in the U.S. and West European markets, not to mention the countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, heads the antiprotectionist campaign for "freedom of trade."

If we generalize and evaluate the processes occurring in this traditional sphere of interimperialist contradictions, then even today it is not free trade struggling against protectionism there but "one imperialism against another, one monopoly against another, one financial capital against another" (V.I. Lenin: "Complete Collected Works," Vol 27, p 412).

Finally, the old methods of fighting for raw materials by seizing their sources are now being supplemented by a new one. In conditions of the changeover to energy- and material-saving production processes, the mass dissemination of new technology is -- even if only temporarily — just as important as the possession of mines or plantations. For the time being, the United States is ahead in creating this technology; however, West Europe and Japan are ahead in its application and in real savings of raw materials and energy.

A special feature of contemporary interimperialist contradictions is that they are being developed chiefly on an integration basis, within the framework of economic and also military-political alliances. The potential has emerged and is being realized for shaping a global structure of the "aggregate military might" of imperialism, based on the more active role of a number of other developed and developing states whose economic and military potentials like that of the United States have substantially increased of late. Consequently, a new trend in the arrangement of forces is becoming apparent.

The existence and development of military blocs are -- more than anything else -- characteristic of the centripetal trend in the imperialist system. "The imperialist trend toward major empires," V.I. Lenin wrote, "is perfectly feasible and in practice is often implemented in the form of an imperialist union of politically self-sufficient and independent states." (Vol 30, pp 101-102). And yet, despite the commonality of the chief political-strategic goals, considerable differences can be detected in the positions of the United States and its allies. The international ambitions of the current U.S. leadership by no means completely coincide with the interests of West Europe and Japan. Today, there is already an increasingly clearly apparent realization that the siting of U.S. missile bases on the territories of sovereign states not merely reduces the level of their security, but is also part of the mechanism which is taking shape for controlling the allies and keeping them within the framework of U.S. strategic interests.

It is apparent that not only the economic but also the political-strategic relations among the imperialist countries are becoming increasingly complex and contradictory. The now overwhelming tendency to join forces objectively contains the possibility of a deformation and, under certain conditions, also of a weakening of the established structure of the "aggregate military might" of imperialism and of engendering and developing new contradictions.

Life itself shows convincingly that the profoundest contradictions among the imperialists are not reduced by their class commonality, their economic integration, or their military-political alliances, though these do, by dint of their function, act as forms of mitigation of the contradictions which are eating imperialism away. The attempts to create a guidance center and coordinating mechanism for agreeing imperialist strategy along economic, political, and military lines are also proving ineffectual. The nine conferences of the "big seven," the regular sessions of the European Council, and the activity of NATO and of the so-called trilateral commission have revealed this very clearly. Despite all the measures to artificially stimulate the centripetal trend, the traditional and the new interimperialist contradictions and differences still survive and continue to function. At the close of the 20th century, this indelible natural law, as V.I. Lenin foresaw, is being increasingly laid bare. Capitalism is not destined to recover from the diseases, from the profound contradictions which are inherent in a society of private property.

SECOND STAGE OF CSCE OPENS IN ATHENS 21 MAR

PM271053 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 84 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Experts' Conference"]

[Text] Athens, 21 Mar -- A conference of experts from countries participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe opened in the Greek capital today. It has been convened in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act and the Belgrade meeting's decision. The conference is attended by delegations from all states participating in the all-European conference, including the Soviet Union.

On the agenda is the continuation of the elaboration of a generally acceptable method for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The first stage of the conference was held in the Swiss city of Montreaux in October-November 1978.

USSR COMMISSION FOR UNESCO AFFAIRS MEETS 27 MAR

LD271307 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- A regular session of the U.S.S.R. Commission for UNESCO Affairs was held in Moscow today.

The session was attended by the leaders of a number of ministries, departments, organisations, by workers in the fields of science, education, culture and information, and by representatives of public organisations.

The participants in the session considered matters connected with the 30-year period of the U.S.S.R.'s participation in UNESCO, mapped out tasks to further broaden the Soviet Union's cooperation with this international organisation, and discussed questions of Soviet scientists' and specialists' participation in the elaboration and implementation of UNESCO's programmes in the field of informatics.

The meeting was presided over by Viktor Stukalin, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., chairman of the U.S.S.R. Commission for UNESCO Affairs.

UN COMMITTEE SESSION ON INDIAN OCEAN CLOSES

LD271904 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- TASS Political News Analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

The other day a session of the U.N. ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean closed in New York. The session was meant to complete preparations for an international conference scheduled to take place in the first half of 1985 to establish a peace zone in the Indian Ocean. As the session deliberated preparations for the conference, including the drafting of its agenda, the diametrically opposite approaches to that problem of imperialist powers, on the one hand, and non-aligned and socialist countries, on the other, made themselves manifest.

From the outset the USA and its allies tried to thwart the proceedings of the session by making all sorts of preconditions. The U.S. representative to the committee, Jose Sorzano, resorted to blatant blackmail by stating that the USA would reduce its representation in that U.N. agency if committee members did not meet its demands. The India Press Service news agency quoted one of the diplomats as saying that no-one will be surprised if the USA walked out altogether.

Washington's latest attempts to frustrate or at least block the work of the ad hoc committee cannot be separated from the efforts made by the U.S. Administration yet earlier. The international conference has been re-scheduled on three occasions now because of Washington's sabotage. Practical preparations for the forum have not been initiated either.

The latest session of the committee took place against a troubled background. The USA and its allies stepped up their war preparations in the Indian Ocean. Washington bristled with statements calling for a move from threats to the direct use of armed force against certain states in the region. The manoeuvres of imperialist powers, threatening the sovereignty of coastal countries, along with the arrogant behaviour of their delegates in the special committee -- obviously explained by the fear that the international conference, if convened, will most likely demand that foreign military bases and navies be withdrawn from the Indian Ocean -- outraged participants in the session. As India's delegate Savitri Kunadi stressed, the members of the ad hoc committee had no reason to postpone preparations for the international forum the decision on which had been taken by the U.N. General Assembly.

The draft agenda of the conference was approved by the majority vote of the committee members. Its last item is the proposal to draft practical measures to implement the U.N. declaration on proclaiming the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. Unwilling to find themselves in isolation this time as well, the delegates of the USA and its allies had to agree to the plan of work of the ad hoc committee for 1984.

The non-aligned and socialist countries displayed a constructive approach to holding an international conference on the Indian Ocean with a view to lessening tension in that region and thus contributing to stronger peace and international security. They voiced their readiness energetically to facilitate preparations and to participate in the forum.

The approval of the committee s plan of work, however, is just the first practical step towards the international conference. Further progress on that road will depend to a large extent on the perseverance and consistency which will display the initiators of the idea to establish a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, by all the non-aligned countries. Just as in the past, they can count on the active support of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for their efforts.

U.S. 'Negative Attitude'

LD272027 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast: video talk by political observer Boris Kalyagin, with map of Indian Ocean showing location of U.S. military bases]

[Text] The UN special committee has the task of preparing an international conference on the Indian Ocean, to ensure that it takes place no later than the first half of next year in the capital of Sri Lanka, Colombo. In its turn the basic problem, for whose sake the international conference is being convened, is the question of transforming the Indian Ocean into a peace zone. The nonaligned countries of the region, which are following with alarm the intensification of military-political tension there, are insisting on the adoption of such a decision. The Soviet Union and other socialist states have an attitude of understanding for their view. We support the idea of creating in the Indian Ocean a zone free of nuclear weapons and foreign military bases. A corresponding resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly back in 1971, and still it has not been implemented.

There is one reason for this: the negative attitude of the United States and some of its allies. Washington is building up its military presence at accelerated rates in the Indian Ocean. It unilaterally broke off talks with the Soviet Union on limiting military activity in this area. The Reagan administration has arbitrarily announced part of the Indian Ocean to be a strategic zone of the United States, a sphere of its vital interests, although it is located 1,000 km from American territory. One or two American aircraft-carriers, 2 missile cruisers, 3 nuclear submarines, up to 10 destroyers and frigates, assault ships with marines are constantly sailing in the Indian Ocean, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and of course, the central link in the dangerous chain, the nuclear complex on the island of Diego Garcia. But even this, it seems, is not enough for the Pentagon strategists. They are now expending efforts in order to get their hands on military sites in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. On some coastal states the United States plans to deploy Pershing II missiles.

What has Washington to do with a peace zone, when all its designs are directed at deploying in the Indian Ocean more ships, aircraft and soldiers? But since it is rather awkward to reject openly the peace initiatives of the developing countries, as in other similar cases the United States is launching as a cover hypocritical, false reasoning. It is demanding, for example, that the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union and even parts of Western Siberia be included in the proposed peace zone. One asks what has Siberia to do with the Indian Ocean? Maybe the present Washington politicians have a poor grasp of geography? I don't know. But they are clearly short of sincerity. They are raising proposals that are unacceptable in advance in order to disrupt the talks.

The Indian Ocean area covers one fifth of the globe, and one third of mankind lives there. There are 44 states located there. Their peoples are demanding that this territory become a peace zone and not a strong point for war.

ADDITION TO 'QUESTIONS & ANSWERS" PROGRAM

Inset the following passages following the last paragraph on page CC 8 of the item headlined 'International Situation: Questions & Answers' published in the 26 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT. The guest's name should be Georgiy Khdsroyevich Shakhnazarov.

Georgiy Khosroyevich, a question has just occurred to me now: At the start of our conversation you spoke about new movements which have appeared recently. One hears much about the so-called alternative movement, especially in the ranks of Western youth. These are young people who do not see any concrete ways of solving the severe social problems but at the same time do not want to resign themselves to bourgeois reality. And so, this alternative movement, as a result of its radicalism becomes fertile ground for various kinds of ultra-right and ultra-left, and sometimes simply neo-fascist ideas. And so, in your view, what are the prospects for the development of this alternative movement?

[Shakhnazarov] You know, this is a very complex question. The general tendency of an intensification of the struggle against the inroads of the monopolies, the struggle for the rights of the working people, has always given birth on the one hand, to an organized workers' movement, the intensification of support for the progressive programs of the communists and other parties and, on the other hand, a part of these enraged, aggrieved and angry young people -- especially, of course, the young, who for completely understandable reasons want changes sooner -- do not brook delays and believe in slogans too much, and want to get on with the job, and so, some young people, not believing in the possibility of an organized movement, have become very easy prey for all kinds of demagogues and provocateurs. They have assumed forms such as the Red Brigades, or in the FRG all kinds of terrorist groups of a leftist nature have been quite strong, and so on. All this is, of course, grist to the mill of the ruling circles alone. I think that now too in connection with the laudable fears over peace there will, of course, be such deviations from this powerful and promising movement.

There again, we must perceive several sides or aspects of the issue: these angry young people, to call them that, are having a positive effect on parties which do not occupy sufficiently clear positions on many issues. They are forcing them to state their programs precisely and to follow to some extent the trends of the time and the demands of the working people. And when this does not result, these parties, of course, themselves start to lose votes. And so, as you say, the negative product of these movements is clearly not, of course, an inevitable thing. A certain percentage will cut themselves off from the fundamental wave or mass, or mainstream, and the monopolistic bourgeoisie and its propaganda will take a strong hand in this, because it is extremely interested in disrupting the unity of the movement. But this will not in the final analysis weaken its strength because the latest events show a growing resolve to act in unity and unite together. The understanding is growing that only in this way is it possible to gain radical shifts in resolving the question of war and peace.

[Lutsenko] It is an interesting state of affairs at present in, for example, the socialist and social democratic parties. The young members of these parties occupy much more left-wing positions than the main body of the party, and on the majority of issues young communists, for example, and socialists have more points of contact than the older members of these parties.

[Shakhnazarov] Yes, you know that the SPD of Germany was a movement, and even now it is far from having discontinued -- under that name, the young socialists. [sentence as heard] In the radicalism of young people there may be negative elements which are to be found in radicalism, but nevertheless one must see primarily the main positive content.

[Lutsenko] The main content clearly consists in the desire to act, struggle and attempt somehow to alter the existing bourgeois system, because it is clearly in the interests of the ruling circles to take the charge out of this radicalism by using the passive young people's movements about which you have spoken. These were the hippy movement and other dead-end trends, whose followers see no real ways of changing the existing situation.

[Shakhnazarov] Yes, you are absolutely right. (adding previously ommitted passages)

SCOWCROFT 'AVOIDED MEETING,' 'HAD NOTHING TO SAY'

LD271742 Moscow TASS in English 1727 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- Reports have appeared in the American press that retired General Brent Scowcroft, who recently visited the USSR in a group of U.S. public figures to attend the regular Dartmouth meeting, had a letter from President Reagan to Konstantin Chernenko, and was allegedly not granted a possibility to hand over the letter. These reports are another portion of deception.

As it became known to TASS, Scowcroft said that he had a letter of recommendation from the President and exactly he, Scowcroft, could give explanations pertaining to the approach of the U.S. Administration to the problem of nuclear armaments.

The Soviet side expressed readiness for him to be received by deputy foreign minister of the USSR. But Scowcroft did not wish to avail himself of such a possibility.

Such is the factual side of the matter.

And now, obviously with the prompting of official American circles, a version, which distorts facts, is being circulated in the press of the United States.

The fact that Scowcroft avoided a meeting at the Foreign Ministry of the USSR, of which the American press keeps silent, speaks for itself, showing that the retired general had nothing essential to say.

Letter Generates 'No Interest'

LD251900 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1651 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Washington, March 25 (TANJUG) -- U.S. President Reagan's letter sent two weeks ago to new Soviet party head Konstantin Chernenko has been returned to Washington unopened.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that the letter had been taken by retired U.S. General Brent Scowcroft who went to Moscow as a member of a non-government delegation of U.S. experts for foreign policy who in Moscow had informal consultations on relations between the two countries.

Immediately on arrival in Moscow Scowcroft informed his hosts about his wish to deliver the letter to Chernenko or another of the Soviet leaders. However, no one in Moscow showed any interest at all to take the letter.

After engaging in a venomous verbal war against the Soviet Union last autumn, Reagan completely changed the tone over the last two or three months and now insists on the revival of a constructive and realistic dialogue, inviting the Soviets to return to the negotiating table they left at the end of last year.

U.S. analysts claim that the Soviet leadership had decided against doing anything that would help Reagan in being re-elected the U.S. president.

By accepting Reagan's initiative for the renewal of the dialogue Moscow would provide him with significant support.

The second element which, according to U.S. analysts, makes the renewal of the dialogue harder, is a series of untoward events occuring meanwhile in relations between Moscow and Washington. The Soviet leadership which, otherwise, never makes haste in its relations with the United States, will need time to define its stands and its actions.

The third, according to local assessments crucial, reason for the rejection is that Moscow, quite seriously, thinks that there cannot be any negotiations for as long as U.S. missiles continue deployed in Europe.

POZNER COMMENTS ON U.S.-USSR RELATIONS

LD280306 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 27 Mar 84

["Daily Talk" presented by Vladimir Pozner]

[Text] Thank you, and hello everyone. Mr George Furnace, who makes his home in Upper Darby, or is it Derby, Pennsylvania, and who watched an ABC news Night Line show in which I participated, sent us a letter expressing surprise at a statement I then made -- namely, that in my opinion Soviet-U.S. relations are presently at their lowest level since the Second World War.

As a preliminary let me say that while it is true that McCarthy is no longer active and that the Communist Party USA is a legal political party, anticommunism is not the least bit less active or prominent than it was. McCarthy overreached himself, he attacked establishment people for being agents of the Kremlin, including President Eisenhower. Had he kept within accepted bounds, I think he would have been around much longer. We see testimony to that in the fact of President Reagan having posthumously presented the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to an FBI informer, Whittaker Chambers, the star witness in the frameup of Alger Hiss. Chambers was a McCarthy hero and his being awarded the Medal of Freedom last Monday by the President speaks for itself.

As you say, America is not fighting a fullfledged war against communism as in Korea. However, it is fighting a whole series of wars, by proxy and otherwise, from El Salvador to Afghanistan. In my opinion, just as McCarthyism compromised itself in the eyes of the American people, which in turn made it possible to legalize the CPUSA, the Vietnam war disgusted the American people to the point where the government cannot yet risk open and total involvement. However, that does not change the basics. But the difference between today and the fifties is that the weaponry developed can totally destroy our planet.

The accuracy and power of and the vulnerability to nuclear weapons has made the world a much more precarious place. Nevertheless, the Reagan administration has seen fit to contribute to that precariousness by scrapping the SALT II treaty, by introducing Pershing II's and cruise missiles a stone's throw from the Soviet border, by planning the militarization of space, by consistently avoiding anything that might lead to agreement in the area of arms control and disarmament. At the same time, most other relations have been curtailed, and that goes for scientific cooperation, cultural exchanges, and, largely, trade.

Finally, as a reflection of this, administration rhetoric has been virulent. We've been relegated to the ash heap of history and called the center of the empire of evil -- just two examples. There has been a change in rhetoric recently, but it tends to smell of election politics. But there has been no change at all in actual deeds.

So when all this is summed up, I think it allows one to say that never have relations been worse since the end of the war, and while you might debate that, there is no doubt at all that they've never been more dangerous and more threatening to the lives of all Soviets, all Americans, and all people in general.

LEVIN ON U.S. 'POSITION-OF-STRENGTH' POLICY

LD271257 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] News agencies have reported the results of a public opinion poll conducted in the United States by the Gallup Institute. It shows that about 70 percent of Americans do not agree with President Reagan's assertion that the position-of-strength policy being conducted by his administration is helping to strengthen peace. Viktor Levin comments on this report.

President Reagan asserts that strength helps to consolidate peace. In fact, this formula is being used as a cover for militaristic programs and as grounds for feverishly increasing military budgets. The White House is already requesting more than $300 billion for the next fiscal year, but by all accounts Reagan does not intend to stop there. He is sacrificing social programs for the benefit of the military-industrial complex, and the deficit in the state budget is recklessly being increased. In these conditions, more and more Americans are wondering about the dangers of Reagan's course. This is manifested in mass antiwar demonstrations and in growing criticism of the administration's militaristic course, and finally, in the apathy which is already emerging toward the coming presidential election.

It has to be said that the public, not only in the United States, but also in the other capitalist countries, is evaluating White House policy in exactly the same way, not according to honeyed words, but according to deeds which threaten catastrophe for mankind. What zeal the Washington administration and the authorities of a number of West European states that have offered their territory for U.S. missiles have applied, and are applying, in trying to convince the Europeans that the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles on the continent has had no negative effect and that there are no grounds for concern. This thesis continues to be repeated today in all kinds of ways. For instance, FRG Chancellor Kohl, following Reagan, repeats that nothing has happened; they even assert in Bonn that the Soviet Union is prepared to close its eyes to what has happened and will shortly resume its seat at the negotiating table with the United States. But this is not so. The stand of our country is clearly formulated: For the talks to resume, there must be a return to the situation that existed previous to the beginning of deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. After all, it is clear that the Pershing II and Tomahawk missiles are being set up in order to give the United States the opportunity to gain military superiority.

Now, when belligerent anticommunism serves as the ideological basis of the U.S. Administration's foreign policy course, when the U.S. President openly declares a crusade against communism, this aspiration acquires an especailly ominous character. We clearly see the threat being created for mankind today by the reckless, adventuristic actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism, Comrade Chernenko noted at the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, and we speak of this in full voice, drawing the attention of the peoples of the whole world to this danger. This truth overturns the false assurances of the Washington politicians.

HART QUOTED ON REAGAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

PM271109 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 5

[From "Topical Quotations" feature]

[Text] "With two secretaries of state, three presidential national security advisers, and a President who by no means devotes all his time to his presidential functions, the present U.S. Administration has incurred the hostility of our allies, embittered the Third World, at times deceived Congress, pushed the press aside, and convinced the Soviet Union that it cannot conduct a serious dialogue with our country."

Senator G. Hart.

From his speech at the Chicago International Relations Council.

MINUTEMAN III WYOMING DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE NOTED

PM271006 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Without Delay"]

[Text] Washington, 23 Mar -- The first 10 of the latest first-strike MX ICBM's will be deployed in improved Minuteman III missile silo launchers in the region of Warren Air Base (Wyoming) as early as December 1986. This was stated by Brigadier General Gordon Fornell, who holds the post of deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. The high-ranking Pentagon spokesman rejected all possibility of delaying the missiles' deployment.

Meanwhile, the governors of the States of Wyoming and Nebraska, where MX missiles are to be deployed, recently appealed to President Reagan to defer the start of their deployment for 1 year, since the implementation of this Pentagon project will, in particular, have a devastating effect on the enironment.

DIRECTOR OF U.S. ANTI-MISSILE PROJECT NAMED

LD280639 Moscow TASS in English 0604 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 28 TASS -- U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger has announced the appointment of Lieutenant-General of the Airforce James Abrahamson to the post of director of a programme to create strategic anti-missile defense. The programme, which spans a period of five years, will cost the United States approximately $25,000 million. By starting its implementation, the Reagan administration hopes to attain, by shifting the arms race into space, superiority over the Soviet Union in the field of strategic armaments.

It is symptomatic that Lieutenant-General James Abrahamson is currently one of the heads of a programme to set up the "shuttle" spacecraft of the multiple use, which, according to the Pentagon's plans, should become one of the major elements in the realisation of the U.S. Administration's militaristic plans.

U.S. 'SHOW OF FORCE' IN ECONOMIC SPHERE SCORED

LD261626 Moscow TASS in English 1456 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Ablamov writes:

The figures on some growth of inflation in the United States in the past few months, issued by Washington, give rise to concern of representatives of the business world of the country. Allen Sinai, chief economist of the big financial "Lehman brothers" company, said that the United States "is now moving into a dangerous zone in terms of higher inflation and financial strain." In the opinion of many American economists, in the near future in order to deal with inflation the federal reserve system will have to increase the discount rate on credits granted by it to commercial banks and the latter will have to inflate the interest rate. U.S. biggest banks are known to have recently increased the basic interest rate from 11 to 11.5 percent.

The news that the United States intends to continue "the show of force" in the foreign economic sphere, the policy of boosting interest rates, the overstated dollar value rage, monetary-credit hegemonism bids nothing good to the U.S. allies and developing countries. With the help of the overstated interest rate the Washington administration has already arranged the pumping of huge sums of money from Western Europe to the United States. According to the recent estimates of the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Budget of France Jacques Delor, West European countries last year lost in favour of the U.S. partner about 150,000 million dollars which are extremely necessary to Western Europe for overcoming the protracted economic stagnation. By the year of 1988 the sum might reach 300,000 million dollars. The overstated dollar value rate was one of the main causes for fact that the foreign trade deficit of the Common Market countries trebled in the recent years. For the same reason West European countries overpay huge sums of money in their national currency for oil imports, despite some reduction of oil prices in dollars.

The rise in the discount rates in the United States threatens developing countries, already burdened by huge debts, with new monstrous financial losses. By the end of the last year the total debt of developing countries reached 810,000 million dollars. The growth of the interest rate in the United States by just one per cent will entail a rise in that debt by 4,000 million dollars, since a bigger part of Western credits to Asian, African and Latin American countries is denominated in the American currency. The rise in the interest rate led for instance to the fact that in 1981-82 the debts of developing countries increased additionally by 41,000 million dollars because of the growth of the discount rate. Western loan sharks can be pleased. Out of 96,000 million dollars, paid last year by developing states as debts, 46,000 million dollars were the money paid as interest rate.

And it is no wonder, as is admitted in the report of the international bank for reconstruction and development, that the pace of development of those countries last year was the lowest ever since the second World War.

PRC-JAPAN TALKS CREATE 'DISTORTED IMAGE' OF USSR

OW271325 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Aleksey Anatolyev commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Nakasone held talks in Beijing with leaders of the Chinese Government, including Premier Zhao Ziyang. In these talks, Japan and China jointly attempted to create a distorted image of Soviet policy in the Far East and in all Asia to camouflage the true nature of the current Japanese Government's military policy. We will now broadcast a commentary by commentator Aleksey Anatolyev on this issue.

Apparently, leaders of the Japanese and Chinese Governments have made up their minds to neglect an undeniable fact. Participants in the talks purposely made no mention of the Soviet proposals for measures to build up mutual trust in the Far East and attempted to denounce the Soviet Union as the source of danger imposed on the security of both Japan and China. Furthermore, they attempted to deny that the two countries' governments should be held responsible for intensifying tension in the Far East and in all Asia.

These statements, however, can be termed as lacking objectivity. For instance, while the Japanese and Chinese sides declared at the Beijing talks that they oppose Soviet deployment of medium-range missiles in Asia, the governments of these two countries made no mention of the fact that similar U.S. missiles have been introduced into Japanese ports by American vessels. Beginning 26 March, three nuclear-powered U.S. Navy submarines equipped with Tomahawk missiles are scheduled to call at Yokosuka port.

It is unbelievable that the participants in the Beijing talks were not aware of this fact. And it is harder to believe that the Chinese side was not aware that Japan and the United States have strengthened their military cooperation; that the Nakasone cabinet is positively engaged in forming a tripartite military alliance between Japan, the United States and South Korea; that Japan has stepped up its militarization; and that a large-scale joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise -- with the participation of Japan -- has been conducted in the very vicinity of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Asia.

Oddly enough, the participants in the talks -- while denouncing the Soviet policy as unjustifiable -- have made no mention of the fact that the Soviet Union has taken measures to strengthen its own national defense capability to cope with the unlimited military buildup in Japan, the United States, and South Korea. Even the American Government itself has admitted that such military buildup is being pursued to upset the balance in military strategy and to attain military supremacy.

At the same time, participants in the talks between Japan and China in Beijing failed to pay any attention to Soviet proposals for holding substantial discussions of measures to strengthen mutual trust in the Far East. Moreover, these Soviet proposals are, first of all, meant for both Japan and China and they certainly are not detrimental to their interests. On the contrary, these Soviet proposals aim at strengthening peace in the Far East.

On the other hand, the attempts to strengthen the U.S. military buildup in the Far East and to turn Japan into a U.S. forward nuclear base targeted at the Soviet Union are incompatible with Prime Minister Nakasone's statements that Japan is making efforts for peace and that the revival of militarism will never be allowed in Japan.

Even the Chinese students who had listened to Prime Minister Nakasone's speech would by no means have believed his statements. Even so, it is strange that the leaders of the Chinese Government acted as if they were fully convinced that the current Japanese Government is making efforts for peace.

NORODOM SIHANOUK ARRIVES IN BEIJING FOR VISIT

PM271007 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Sihanouk in Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing, 26 Mar -- N. Sihanouk, one of the ringleaders of Khmer reaction and "president" of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea," has arrived here.

PRC GYMNASTS ARRIVE IN MOSCOW FOR TOURNAMENT

OW280621 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Moskovskiye Novosti Cup international gymnastic tournament will be held in Moscow on 30 March. The tournament will be attended by more than 100 young gymnasts from 27 nations, according to (Uznenkov), director of the gymnastic department of the Soviet Committee for Physical Culture and Sports.

This will be the third participation by Chinese gymnasts since 1982 in this popular international tournament. They have already arrived in Moscow.

(Uznenkov) said: We welcome the expansion of contacts between the Soviet Union and China in the sports field. We hope that such contacts will become regular and contribute to deepening mutual understanding and strengthening friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

In our broadcasts we will carry reports on the 3-day tournament.

MONGOLIAN, SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD TALKS

MPR Minister Arrives

LD271801 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] At the invitation of the Soviet Government, Dugersuren, member of the MPRP Central Committee and MPR foreign minister, arrived in Moscow today on a visit. At the airport the guest was met by Kapitsa, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other officials. Among those meeting him was Gurgadam, ambassador of the MPR to the USSR.

Talks Begin

LD280944 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Talks began in the Kremlin today between Comrade Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Comrade Dugersuren, minister of foreign affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic, who is visiting the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

DPRK TRADE UNION DELEGATION'S VISIT ENDS

PM270847 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Mar 84 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Delegation Visits"]

[Text] At the invitation of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies, a delegation of the General Federation of Korean Workers in Industry and Technology headed by Vice Chairman of the Federation's Central Board (Sin Gi-chen) visited the Soviet Union 17-23 March. The delegation met with Academician A. Yu. Ishlinskiy, chairman of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies, and acquainted itself with the work experience of USSR scientific and technical societies. The guests visited a number of industrial enterprises and scientific establishments in Moscow and Leningrad and the USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements.

A cooperation agreement between the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies and the Central Board of the General Federation of Korean Workers in Industry and Technology was signed.

REGAN TRIP AIM: 'FINANCIAL INJECTIONS' FOR SEOUL

LD251630 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Tokyo March 25 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Donald Regan arrived in Seoul today, according to reports from South Korea. Local observers note that the main goal of his trip is to discuss the issue of additional financial injections to the anti-people puppet regime to further South Korea's militarization.

By lavish handouts to the Seoul regime, Washington not only contributes to military tension in the Korean peninsula and Far East, but also accelerates the deterioration of the South Korean economy now facing considerable difficulties, local observers stress.

"MOST NEGATIVE" JAPAN TIES SEEN OVER MISSILES

OW260239 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Sergey Grigoriyev commentary: "U.S. Missiles and Soviet-Japanese Relations"]

[Text] The fact that Japanese-U.S. military and political cooperation is rapidly expanding and deepening can be found everywhere. Heretofore, the Japanese side had set up a barrier to the general improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations. Now, the more active role Japan plays in the U.S. Government's preparations for a war against the Soviet Union, the higher the barrier will inevitably become. This is self-evident to the Soviet Union.

Becoming increasingly clear in Japanese-U.S. military cooperation is the fact that Japan is turning into a U.S. nuclear base for attacking the Soviet Union. The Japanese Government is now clearly intimating that it aims to completely legalize the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons to Japan under U.S. Government pressure, either by scrapping the three nonnuclear principles or by formally approving the introduction of nuclear weapons on a regular basis. Otherwise, there would be no way to explain the plan to equip U.S. 7th Fleet warships home-ported in Japan with Tomahawk surface-to-surface cruise missiles for nuclear attack by the middle of this year.

By any chance is the Japanese Government not intending to prohibit U.S. warships carrying nuclear weapons from calling at Japanese ports? No, that is totally unimaginable. Japanese ruling circles have always shamelessly reassured that they are abiding by the three nonnuclear principles as long as official U.S. authorities keep silent. This is the real situation.

But does the Japanese Government really think everyone believes that U.S. warships call at Japanese ports after unloading nuclear weapons somewhere else?

At Misawa airbase, preparations are already underway for the deployment of F-16 fighter-bombers. It is well known that these aircraft are a means of nuclear weapons delivery, capable of launching nuclear strikes up to a distance of 1,000 km. If equipped with cruise missiles, the range of the aircraft would more than double. According to a special report by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Misawa base and Sasebo are designated the most promising sites for the deployment of ground-launched cruise missiles. All these facts are now secret U.S. plans, accidentally leaked to the news media, but truly tell of the preparations underway by Japan and the United States for turning Japan into a hugh nuclear base for the United States. Furthermore, the missiles to be deployed to nuclear bases in Japan will be aimed wholly at actual targets in the Soviet Union.

How is the Japanese Government going to rationalize this in view of its desire to improve ties with the Soviet Union? Does the Japanese Government really expect that the Tomahawk missiles to be deployed to Japanese ports will help improve Soviet-Japanese relations? Are some Japanese people not expecting that the deployment of cruise missiles will make it easier to apply political and economic pressure on the Soviet Union? If that is the case, it is a vain hope. Virtual legalization of the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in Japanese territory and territorial waters will only introduce a new factor, which can exercise the most negative influence on general relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. This is the Soviet side's principled evaluation.

AFGHAN JIRGA SHOWS CLERGY'S SUPPORT FOR PDPA

PM271045 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Baykov dispatch: "Together With the People"]

[Text] Kabul, 20 Mar -- There has been a considerable response in the DRA to the recently concluded jirga (meeting) of ulemas and religious figures in the country. Its participants, more than 600 of the most respected and authoritative clergymen from all provinces, declared their firm support for the people's power and addressed an appeal to all the country's citizens to strengthen their unity in the struggle against counterrevolutionary forces.

Increasing numbers of positive changes occur each day in the life of the Afghan people, who since the April Revolution have embarked on the path of building a society of social justice. The program of progressive transformations proclaimed by the PDPA and the revolutionary government is supported by the most diverse strata of the population. The political base of the revolutionary power is expanding among the masses: democratic organizations of young people and women and trade unions have been created and are working actively. The healthy national-patriotic forces have united within the National Fatherland Front, and the PDPA is strengthening.

As the jirga showed, most religious leaders also support the bright ideals of the April Revolution, together with the whole people. The jirga demonstrated the coincidence of the interests of progressive clergy and the DRA leadership in their striving to attain the lofty goal -- to consolidate the state's national independence. In the documents that they adopted -- "Address to the Muslims of Afghanistan and the Whole World" and "Appeal in Defense of Peace" -- the jirga's participants resolutely condemn Washington and international reaction, which have launched an undeclared war against the young republic, and the intrigues by imperialist forces struggling against national liberation movements in different parts of the globe. Profound gratitude is expressed to the Soviet Union for the help it gives the Afghan people in building the new society. Afghanistan's Muslims, the documents stress, together with all people of good will, advocate peace and security on earth.

The results of the jirga show yet again that the vain attempts by imperialism and counterrevolutionary elements to hold back the onward development of the April Revolution are doomed to fail, since the revolution relies on the constructive energy of the most varied strata of Afghan society.

U.S. DRA 'MERCENARIES' EXPAND 'UNDECLARED WAR'

PM270938 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 84 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Recruiting Mercenaries"]

[Text] Washington, 24 Mar -- Robert Brown, who is well known in the United States for recruiting mercenaries to carry out "special operations," has received a new assignment from his Washington masters -- helping the U.S. special services to expand the "undeclared war" against the DRA.

Recently he and a number of other U.S. "experts" in organizing subversive operations stole into DRA territory and met with the ringleaders of counterrevolutionary gangs.

The meetings discussed questions of activating recruitment of mercenaries in the West and transferring them to Afghanistan to carry out terrorist and subversive acts, as well as of expanding deliveries to the basmachs of arms from the NATO countries. This bandit incursion into the territory of sovereign Afghanistan was recounted by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE magazine, which is published by Brown.

The true inspirer of this activity by the "publisher" is no secret to anyone. As NEWSWEEK noted, former U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Brown "maintains close links with the CIA," which directs his activity. The U.S. espionage agency has ample resources for financing its subversive operations against Afghanistan. According to NEWSWEEK's evidence, $100 million is annually allocated for these purposes.

Brown and his assistants are diligently fulfilling all orders from their bosses at CIA headquarters in Langley.

'BRUTAL' DRA CYANIDE SMUGGLING ATTEMPT LAMBASTED

PM271557 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 84 Morning Edition pp 1,5

[Dispatch by "our correspondent" G. Ustinov: "What Do Bitter Almonds Smell Of?"]

[Text] Kabul -- He was arrested almost at the end of his long journey from Pakistan, some 20 km from Kabul, in the small settlement of Pol-e Charkhi. The chief of the checkpoint noticed the unusual nervousness of this young intellectual, whose documents seemed to be completely in order. They decided to take a look at the contents of his backpack. There they discovered a cellophane packet containing a white powder tightly bound with crisscross strips of adhesive bandage.

"Heroin," the boys from the sarandoy (militia) decided. The traveler was arrested. The packet was sent to forensic chemists. The response from the laboratory proved unexpected, however. I allow myself to quote it in full: You don't need to be a specialist to understand the terrible import of its words:

"Toxicological study, 19 March 1984. The laboratory set about analyzing a sample of a white powder. The following was established during the study. The powder has a characteristic smell of bitter almonds and is readily water-soluble. When dissolved in water, the smell is sharply intensified. Chemical study of a solution of this sample produced a positive reaction to the formation of "Berlin blue." Studies using a chemical agent detector kit-MB [PKHR-MB] with a display tube (three green rings) led to an intense raspberry coloring in the test layer. Conclusion: The presence of the bitter almonds smell, the positive reaction to 'Berlin blue,' and the appearance of raspberry coloring in the display tube lead to the conclusion that the substance under analysis is a cyanide compound."

The cellephane packet contained about 0.5 kg of powder.

"How many people could be poisoned with that quantity of potassium cyanide?" I asked the owner of this lethal burden.

"Thousands, tens of thousands," he replied.

The young man knows what he's talking about. By profession he is a doctor. Not a fully trained one, it is true. He fled the Republic to Pakistan in his last year at the medical institute.

He embarked on a mission -- supplying poison to one of the gangs entrenched in Kabul itself -- in exchange for money. They promised to pay him generously, in dollars. "After that I would like to go to Europe or the United States, complete my studies at a medical faculty, and go to work in a respectable hospital. Curing people has been my long-standing dream."

I listen to him and I can't believe my ears. Killing to cure? Where does this 28-year-old man get such inhuman cynicism? After all, his life is too far removed in space and time from the Nazi camps of World War II, where Hitler's butchers in white coats carried out their monstrous "medical experiments." Or in the 3 years he has spent abroad has he graduated from "universities" of equal cruelty and sadism? In that case, who were his teachers, what morality do they preach?

(Gulyam Khaydar) -- that is the name of this partly trained student -- hides nothing and answers all questions eagerly and loquaciously. He fled to Pakistan tempted by promises over the radio, the promise of a carefree, wealthy life in "the free democratic world." In search of the means of subsistence he embarked on the dirtiest work, sliding into debt to several of his friends from the same country who had been more successful than he. He could not even think of continuing his studies. Finally, in despair, he moved to the Peshawar refugee camp of (Vaskar), where the dushman gangs' future goons undergo military and other training.

Here people from the reactionary emigre ISMA-7 organization showed an interest in the young man. It is worth making a special mention of this organization. Its name is an acronym of "Islamic Union of Mujahidin of Afghanistan." The figure "7" means that the organization includes seven counterrevolutionary parties and major groupings of various political hues, not very close to each other but united by a joint feeling of fierce hatred for revolutionary Afghanistan. ISMA-7 is headed in turn by representatives of all seven groupings. The organization's present leader is one Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, who is generously financed by the West, mainly the CIA.

In February this year (Gulyam Khaydar) was invited to the (Varsak) office. The immediate instructor of the group in which (Khaydar) had undergone his "training," the very tall, long-armed Pakistani (Azad), presented him to two strangers and tactfully withdrew. One of the strangers was an Afghan. He did not give his name, but merely said that he had come on personal instructions from Sayyaf. He called his companion "our American friend."

"We have studied your career thoroughly," the ISMA-7 envoy said. It seems to us that it is inexpedient to use you as a simple member of a mujahidin detachment. Just think: living in a constant state of tension, hiding from the authorities, being a target for bullets...Why do you need that, you, an educated man, almost a doctor? Just fulfill one assignment from us, with essentially no risk involved, and your future is assured."

...(Gulyam Khaydar) did not take much persuading. On the contrary, it seemed to him that fate was finally smiling on him. Delivering a packet weighing .05kg. That was a mere bagatelle compared with his obviously happy and unclouded future.

In addition to the lethal package, (Gulyam Khaydar) received well drafted documents, money for his trip to Kabul and back to Pakistan, and verbal instructions for the ringleader of the Kabul gang. The poison was to be used to "sweeten" the drinking water in the capital's eighth region, where there are major state institutions and two female high schools.

"The latter is particularly important," the ISMA-7 employee stressed. "Under the new system our sisters are getting increasingly out of hand, forgetting their place and the precepts of the shari'a. I was in Kabul on our business recently and saw how many of these shameless women there were, walking the streets without yashmaks. The schools are full of girls. If there is any demonstration, they are in the front ranks. It is time they were given a proper fright..."

On 15 March (Gulyam Khaydar) set off. Fortunately, he did not reach his destination and we can end the story there. The revolutionary court will give him what he deserves.

The court of history will also pass sentence on those who cold-bloodedly planned and almost saw through this brutal new crime against the young Afghan republic, those who are prepared to turn from acts of terrorism and subversion to the mass murder of totally innocent people. Just as I was about to sign this report, a powerful explosion tore me away from my desk. Some 2 km from the IZVESTIYA correspondent center bandits had blown up the Kabul polytechnical institute mosque. When I arrived, about 10 ambulances had already gathered. The explosion occurred 21 March during the evening prayers when the mosque was full of people. Of these 4 died on the spot and 21 were seriously wounded.

Many angry words addressed to the bandits and their U.S. patrons were expressed at a mass protest meeting held in Kabul the following day. "The crime in the mosque will rebound against those who committed it," Abdul Vali Hojjat, chairman of the main administration for Islamic religious affairs, said in particular. A demonstration of 100,000 people took place outside the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

The bitter smell of almonds. The bitter smell of explosive. The bitter tears on the faces of men and women...The counterrevolution, hemmed in on all sides, is snapping and raging, knowing it is doomed. It will never triumph. The people of Afghanistan have chosen their fate, and no one will force them to turn from their new path.

INDIA 'CONCERNED' OVER U.S.' PAKISTAN ARMS ROLE

LD271819 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi March 27 TASS -- The Indian Government is seriously concerned about U.S. massive supplies of offensive armaments to Pakistan. The concentration of weapons on India's borders could not but arouse apprehensions since that affected its security interests, A.A. Rahim, minister of state for external affairs, said in Quilon, Kerala State.

The Bombay Scientific Research Institute said in a report published here that the Islamabad regime's militarist preparations, conducted with the U.S. help, were directed first of all against India. The reinforcement of the Pakistani military machine met the strategic interests of American imperialists in the region. The United States was conniving at Islamabad in the latter's report to develop a nuclear bomb of its own.

After securing the military and political support of the United States, Pakistan had already attacked India in the past. Therefore India should strengthen its defenses, the report said.

Islamabad is, in accordance with a 3.2-billion-dollar deal with the United States, receiving tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery pieces and other combat hardware from overseas. The United States has already supplied it with 12 latest F-16 fighter-bombers. Washington has hurriedly met Pakistani generals' request for the delivery of Harpoon sea-based missiles to them.

Pakistan's Nuclear Program

LD272123 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Viktor (Silyakov) commentary]

[Text] Recently THE TIMES OF INDIA published materials relating to Pakistan's efforts to build nuclear weapons. The authors of these articles, the director of India's institute of defense research and analyses, K. Subramaniam, among them, have stressed that the building of the so-called Islamic bomb will result in a drastic change in the strategic situation in the region, and an increased threat to India's security. These conclusions reflect India's concern over the prospect of Pakistan joining those who possess nuclear weaponry. It goes without saying that this step is also incompatible with the universal condemnation of the nuclear arms race, which was expressed in the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons that came into force back in 1970.

Control over the observance of the treaty is carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Having shrouded its nuclear program in secrecy, guarded as intensely as military secrets, Pakistan strongly objects to any form of control over its nuclear facilities suggested by the agency's experts. The agency's director, Mr Hans Blix, who visited Pakistan recently, was denied entry to the nuclear facility in Kahuta, the place where the construction of a plant for enriching uranium, the raw material indispensible in the production of atom bombs, has been actually concluded. The plant is closely guarded by the Pakistani Army. And Pakistan's leading specialist in nuclear research, Abdul Qadeer Khan, is also hiding behind Army bayonets. Abdul Qadeer Khan is known as the father of Pakistan's atom bomb. Besides, he is a criminal, sentenced by a court in the Netherlands to 4 years in prison for stealing nuclear secrets. Recently the newspaper NAWA-I-WAQT published an interview with him. The essence of the interview, given by a man who knows every detail of Pakistan's nuclear program, is this: Everything is ready for the production of the Islamic bomb.

The (?emergence) of the newspaper interview with a specialist doing classified work is viewed as an attempt to find out how Islamabad's allies will react to its nuclear program. It's quite clear that, overburdened with debts and economically underdeveloped, Pakistan can't build its atom bomb without outside aid. The complicity of Western countries -- the United States among them -- in the implementation of Pakistan's nuclear program began many years ago. Hundreds of Pakistani specialists in nuclear research have been trained in the West. Raw materials and machinery also came from there. The funds too were supplied by Western contributors.

The ambiguity of Washington's position is particularly obvious. As a country which signed the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the United States must observe its spirit and letter. In the meantime, nothing can be further from observing that treaty than Washington's stance towards Islamabad's nuclear program. According to the defense secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, Pakistan can possess nuclear arms of its own, provided they remain in the hands of a government friendly to the United States. As Washington's strategic ally, Islamabad receives American weaponry whose nature is frankly offensive.

Washington maintains that the deliveries of such weaponry would keep Pakistan generals from yielding to the temptation of obtaining nuclear arms of their own. Using this far-fetched pretext, Washington violates its own legislation. The Symington-Glenn amendment approved by the United States Senate, prohibits the granting of military aid to countries seeking to possess nuclear weapons. But Washington expands the scope of its military cooperation with Pakistan in defiance of this amendment. Witness the arrival in Pakistan of another consignment of F-16 fighter bombers, capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear weapons to targets located deep inside neighboring countries. In this connection, one can't help recalling the prediction of the Indian press agency that these arms shipments won't be stopped, even if Pakistan starts testing its nuclear weaponry.

HENG SAMRIN HAILS USSR'S 'CONSTRUCTIVE' SUPPORT

PM271342 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Kampuchea's Goodwill: H. Samrin Speech"]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 24 Mar -- Since the first days of its existence, People's Kampuchea has made efforts to establish an atmosphere of stability and trust in Southeast Asia. Together with the fraternal states of Indochina, our republic has sought to live in peace with neighboring countries, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the PRK State Council, stated at a meeting with journalists.

The situation in the region remains tense, the Kampuchean leader observed. Imperialist states and the forces of hegemonism and international reaction have not abandoned their schemes to undermine the Kampuchean revolution's gains and restore the bloody Pol Pot regime to the country. By using puppets — the Pol Pot bandits and other emigre rabble that have found refuge in Thailand — they are trying to exert military pressure on Kampuchea and fuel tension in the region.

Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Laos have countered this attempt by a broad package of peace-loving proposals formulated at the conference of their foreign ministers. They are ready to take part in discussions with the ASEAN countries on any problems affecting Kampuchea based on principles of equality, mutual trust, and noninterference in internal affairs, Heng Samrin said.

Kampuchea highly rates the Soviet Union's constructive stance aimed at settling the situation in Southeast Asia. This stance displays its consistent peace-loving foreign policy; the USSR has invariably given all-round support to Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Laos in their struggle for national independence and stability in the region by helping to turn it into a zone of peace and good-neighborliness, the Kampuchean leader stressed.

THACH TOUR IMPACT ON SRV-ASEAN DIALOGUE 'MARKED'

PM271520 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Valerian Skvortsov "Commentator's Column": "A Good Beginning"]

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's official visits to Jakarta, Canberra, and Bangkok have given rise to a chain reaction of diplomatic activity. Thus, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja has visited a number of the capitals of ASEAN countries to familiarize their leaders with the results of the talks. S. Dhanabalan, the head of the Singapore foreign policy department, has stated that the talks "have laid the foundation for dialogue." For its part, the newspaper the AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW called Nguyen Co Thach's visit to Canberra "successful in many respects."

As is well known, during Nguyen Co Thach's tour there was an exchange of opinions on questions of bilateral relations and a discussion of the situation surrounding Kampuchea and Southeast Asia as a whole. This is not the first time this exchange of opinions, whose supporters, as well as Vietnam, include Kampuchea and Laos, has been conducted. Its positive influence on the situation in the region is increasingly marked.

For all its nuances, the approach of ASEAN members toward their dialogue with the SRV, the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the PRK, which are raising the question of the need to resolve problems not through confrontation, but on the basis of mutual respect and equal rights, without any outside interference, is becoming more realistic.

At the same time the emigre rabble expelled from Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea as a result of the national liberation struggle and the most reactionary circles in the ASEAN countries, incited by Washington, are also openly trying to thwart dialogue.

Despite the differences in their ideology and sociopolitical systems, cooperation, contacts, and political and economic relations between ASEAN on the one hand and the SRV, the LPDR, and the PRK on the other are increasingly blazing a trail. The initiatives put forward at the recent eighth conference of foreign ministers of these three countries in Vietnam, the Vietnamese foreign minister's trip to Indonesia, Australia, and Thailand, and the nature of the preparation which has begun for the forthcoming Jakarta meeting of ASEAN states' foreign ministers reflect the desire for the easing of tension and for cooperation in the region. The well-known principles of the conference of nonaligned heads of state and government in Delhi and the three fraternal Indochina countries' consistent stance are aimed precisely at reinforcing the foundation of this positive process.

SRV GUEST WORKERS MOCK U.S. DISCRIMINATION CLAIM

PM271037 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian on 18 March 1984 in its First Edition carries on page 5 a 1,000-word article by B. Sinyavskiy titled "Siberian Women From Vietnam. About True Friendship and Deliberate Slander."

Sinyavskiy notes that the Khimvolokno Production Association in Kemesovo employs Vietnamese workers "who are there under an intergovernmental agreement." He reports an interview with Pham Van (Khong), leader of the group of Vietnamese workers, who praises the agreement and the help Vietnamese workers receive in the Soviet Union. Sinyavskiy continues:

"It appears, however, that there is another point of view. The U.S. State Department has prepared a report 'On the Question of the Use of Vietnamese Workers in the USSR,' which claims that Vietnamese workers in the Soviet Union are engaged in unskilled labor beyond their physical capacity and are, moreover, paid considerably less for this work than Russian workers. Do (Khong) and his compatriots know about this document?

" 'Of course we know about it,' my interlocutor's expression darkened. 'We know everything. We also know the value of this pitiful effort. The Russian workers in the shop told me a proverb that totally fits this instance: "They are shedding crocodile tears.' Where was the State Department when our country was being inundated with defoliants, when our cities and villages were burning, when our children and women were being murdered? They are obviously unwilling to talk about that. Only things that contain at least a grain of truth are worth refuting; deliberate lies are not worth it.' "

The author than goes on to detail the training and the working and living conditions of Vietnamese workers coming to the Soviet Union.

BURMA ARMED FORCES LAUDED FOR LONGTIME KEY ROLE

BK280922 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1030 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station observer (Sergey Viktorov) commentary]

[Text] On 27 March, 39 years ago, the Burmese Army headed by General Aung San started its resistance against the Japanese. The resistance later came the people's struggle for national liberation against the occupying troops. It was evident then that the people and the Burmese national Army were inseparable -- a single entity. The people and the Army marched together along the path of glory and successfully attained independence for the mother country.

President U San Yu has said: our Armed Forces have always been closely associated with the people as well as with their independence struggle. The Armed Forces were founded with the treasured sons of the peasants, workers, and intellectuals so they could work for the development of the people's life.

In the post-independence era, the Burmese Armed Forces have often defended national unity and the country's sovereignty. It was the Armed Forces that defeated the subversive work of separatist rebels and the aggressive incursion by the Kuomintang troops from China. The Armed Forces clearly demonstrated that they are a most unified organization with great political awareness. Most of the Armed Forces leaders were officers who had military and revolutionary experience under the guidance of the late national leader, Gen Aung San.

For 14 years under fuedal landlords and capitalist circles, Burma gradually moved toward the brink of destruction, toward disintegration and loss of sovereignty. It is no coincidence that it was the Armed Forces under General Ne Win -- the right-hand man of Gen Aung San -- which prevented that from happening.

In 1962, the Revolutionary Council made up of fervently patriotic military officers came to power and rejected the system of development through capitalism. It chose to reform Burmese society with socialist principles and to implement socialist economic principles in the country. It practically implemented profound economic reforms that affected all social life within the state. It was due to these reforms that marked success was achieved in key economic sectors as well as in the education and health fields. The recent people's assembly meeting particularly stressed this point. It has also been pointed out in Burma that the success in the country would be even greater if there had been no armed antigovernment activities by insurgents of various hues who have carried out their subversive work for many years.

The undeclared war in the Burmese jungles continues unabated. It has drawn off resources badly needed for innovation and investment. The insurgents, who get support from abroad, instigate hatred, create terrorism, and destabilize the country. Their crimes, among others, are persecution of the people, robbery and murder, terrorism, and subversion. For example, it was learned that only recently Karen separatist rebels blew up the Insein railway station, leaving 10 people seriously injured. A few days later, a bomb exploded in a movie theater, killing two persons.

The Burmese Armed Forces and people are resolute in their opposition to such subversive activities by the insurgents. The people volunteer to collect the funds needed to form new pople's militia units or to reinforce those units which help the Armed Forces in counterattacking the insurgents in remote border areas. Thousands of workers and peasants join the people's milita units.

It is evident that without the havens provided them outside the country the insurgent forces would have been wiped out long ago. The insurgents have bases in neighboring countries, and they use these bases as sanctuary to strengthen themselves.

In Burma today, the Armed Forces are undertaking the most important task of defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country while actively participating in political and socio-economic life. Military personnel as well as veterans form the hardcore elements of the political, administrative, and management bodies of the country. People in military uniforms work hard in hand and side by side with workers in mills and factories, and in building roads and irrigation canals. They can also be seen helping the peasants undertake farm work. These are the evidence of why people of all strata highly esteem the Armed Forces and of the close association between the people and the Armed Forces.

HOFFMAN MILITARY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

Departs Riga 24 Mar

PM270910 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 84 Second Edition p 1

[Report by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel B. Karpov: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] The GDR military delegation headed by Army General H. Hoffman, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense, which was in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government, yesterday familiarized itself with the sights of the capital of Soviet Latvia. Army Gen H. Hoffman laid a wreath at the eternal flame at the Riga City Fraternal Cemetery.

The GDR military delegation visited the Latvian Red Rifleman Memorial Museum. The delegation members were familiarized with the history of the revolutionary workers movement in Latvia and with the exploits of the Latvian Red Riflemen during the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars. They were presented with Latvian Red Riflemen badges. The GDR guests presented Karl Marx jubilee memorial medallions to the museum.

H. Hoffmann signed the honored visitors' book.

The military delegation was accompanied by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces.

The military delegation left for home 24 March. The GDR guests were seen off at Riga Airport by A.E. Voss, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee; P.Ya. Strautmanis, chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov; Lieutenant General A.V. Betekhtin, commander of the Red Banner Baltic Military District; Colonel General V.P. Novikov, member of the Military Council and chief of the District's Political Directorate; and E. Winkelmann, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

Visits Baltic Fleet

LD221542 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1353 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, 22 Mar (ADN) -- The military delegation led by GDR Defense Minister Army General Heinz Hoffmann continued its official visit to the USSR on Thursday. After 2 days of talks in Moscow, where it was cordially seen off by Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, it has arrived in Riga.

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR, Petr Strautmanis, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Yuriy Ruben, and Commander of the Baltic Military District Lieutenant General Anatoliy Betekhtin, welcomed the guests, who afterwards visited a unit of the Baltic fleet.

Rear-Admiral Eduaurd Semenkov stated that the close cooperation between the Baltic fleet, the people's Navy and the Polish Navy has been proving itself for many years. High-points of training such as joint exercises between naval units and squadron voyages have strengthened the close bonds of friendship between the three allies navies.

Admiral Wilhelm Ehm, deputy GDR defense minister and chief of the People's Navy, paid tribute in an address to the operational readiness of the members of the Baltic fleet in securing a peaceful life for the peoples of the socialist Baltic countries.

Visits Riga Radio Works

LD232255 East Berlin Domestic Service in German 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The GDR military delegation, led by Defense Minister Army General Heinz Hoffmann, which is visiting the Soviet Union, today visited the radio works in Riga. During a meeting with workers, the guests were informed that traditional cooperation with the CEMA countries, including the GDR, is proving itself with the development of new products. Earlier, the delegation visited a guards regiment of the land armed forces. The highlight of this visit was a brotherhood-in-arms meeting with members of the garrison.

Further Riga Activities

LD232259 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2048 GMT 23 Mar 84

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The GDR Military delegation led by General Hoffmann, member of Politburo of the SED Central Committee and GDR minister of national defense, continues its visit in the USSR. In Riga the delegation visited the Red Banner Sevastopol Latyshskikh Strelkov motorized-artillery training guards regiment of the Baltic Military District. The guests had a meeting with the personnel of the unit.

The delegation visited the VEF [not further identified] production association, and laid flowers at the monument of Vladimir Ilich Lenin and the memorial of VEF workers who died in the Great Fatherland War.

SFRY'S KOMUNIST HIGHLIGHTS LINKS WITH USSR

PM271309 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "New Prospects for Cooperation"]

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Mar -- The recent meeting between K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other Soviet leaders with a Yugoslav delegation headed by V. Zarkovic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, confirmed the two countries' desire to continue to develop friendly relations between the USSR and the SFRY, the weekly KOMUNIST, organ of the LCY, writes.

This meeting, the weekly stresses, outlined new prospects for the further consolidation of all-around cooperation between the two countries. It demonstrated once more that Soviet-Yugoslav relations based on the principles contained in the 1955 Belgrade Declaration and the 1956 Moscow Declaration and Statement remain stable. This line accords with the interests of the two countries' peoples, the interests of peace and socialism.

The participants in the Soviet-Yugoslav talks, which took place in a businesslike, friendly atmosphere, KOMUNIST notes, rated highly the two countries' economic cooperation, which is developing on a long-term mutually advantageous, and stable basis.

The Soviet Union, the weekly writes, is the SFRY's most important trading partner. The dynamism and magnitude of their bilateral economic ties is borne out by the fact that the USSR's share in the overall volume of Yugoslav foreign trade is constantly increasing, having now reached almost 25 percent. In the past decade alone trade exchange between the countries has increased 15 times over. A considerable place in trade exchange is taken up with finished output, especially machine building output. The proportion of articles produced on the basis of production sharing and specialization is also increasing in mutual trade exchange. Important significance attaches to the protocol signed in Belgrade recently on the further development of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the USSR and SFRY in the SFRY in the field of the agro-industrial complex.

CPSU AIDE RECEIVED BY SED POLITBURO MEMBER KRENZ

PM270842 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Visit"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the SED, a delegation of CPSU workers led by Ye.Z. Razumov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Section visited the GDR 19 through 24 March to familiarize itself with the SED's experience of work with young people.

The delegation was received by E. Krenz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES BY RCP CC PLENUM REPORTED

PM261644 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "In Fraternal Parties": "RCP Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Bucharest, 23 Mar -- An RCP Central Committee Plenum has been held here. It discussed a report by the Romanian Council of Ministers on the fulfillment of the plan for Romania's socioeconomic development in 1983 and in the first 2 months of this year and on measures to fulfill the 1984 tasks.

A report on the international activity of the RCP and the Romanian state in 1983 and the main directions of foreign policy in 1984 were examined, as well as other questions.

The plenum released P. Lupu from his duties as member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and chairman of the RCP Central Party Collegium at his request in connection with his retirement.

The plenum recommended the RCP Central Party Collegium to elect M. Dobrescu, candidate member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee, chairman of the collegium, and in this connection it released him from his duties as secretary of the RCP Central Committee.

The Plenum elected L. Ciobanu, I. Radu, C. Radu, I. Stoian, and S. Curticeanu secretaries of the RCP Central Committee.

The plenum was addressed by N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP.

POLYAKOV TALKS WITH POLISH JUSTICE MINISTER

PM270837 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talk Held"]

[Text] I.Ye. Polyakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has received Polish Justice Minister L. Domeradzki.

The talk, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, was attended by USSR Minister of Justice V.I. Terebilov, other officials, and Polish Ambassador to the USSR S. Kociolek.

USSR, POLISH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS CONFER

PM271057 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talks Held"]

[Text] On 22 March USSR Foreign Trade Minister N.S. Patolichev had talks with Polish Foreign Trade Minister T. Nestorowicz. Attention was paid to the timely and full fulfillment of mutual pledges concerning deliveries of goods, in particular consumer goods.

HUNGARY'S CZINEGE AWARDED ORDER OF LENIN

LD231111 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS -- The Defense Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic General of the Army Lajos Czinege has been awarded the Order of Lenin.

The top Soviet decoration was conferred on him for the services and personal contribution to the development and consolidation of cooperation between the armed forces of the USSR and the Hungarian People's Army, as well as in connection with his 60th birthday.

CSSR CHURCH GROUP ENDS USSR TRIP WITH COMMUNIQUE

LD272044 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (TASS) -- A delegation of the CSSR Roman Catholic Church clergy completed their visit today to the USSR, which was organized at the invitation of the Russian Orthodox Church. The delegation included Bishop Jozef Feranec, a group of clergymen representing the "Pacem in Terris" organization, and lecturers in the two Catholic theological faculties. The guests from the CSSR spent 2 weeks in the USSR. In addition to Moscow, they visited Kiev, Leningrad, and Minsk. They met with many churchmen from the Russian Orthodox Church and its hierarchy. The guests were received by Pimen, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. In Moscow and in other cities, the CSSR Church officials conducted services in Catholic churches and had contact with the clergy and parishioners.

The program of the delegation's visit included the holding of a seminar and an exchange of views on the subject "The Christian in the Struggle for Peace; the Clergyman in Socialist Society."

The communique, which sums up the results of the visit, says in connection with the seminar that in the theological reports and during the discussion "the sides noted unanimously with great concern the growing danger of a nuclear conflict." It stressed that "it is the result of the deployment of American missiles in a number of countries of West Europe, which is being implemented against the will of the majority of the population of those countries, and which is giving rise to a mass protest movement in which religious forces are taking a large part."

In this connection, the church leaders also stated that the "religious forces are called upon to give support to the process of the relaxation of tension and to help by their joint actions in the creation of a climate of trust and neighborliness between peoples and states taking part in the international conference in Helsinki."

The communique points out that "the set aims of the visit have been achieved. The contact between the sides that took place was evidence of a genuinely fraternal love, a striving to deepen mutual acquaintance, to continue and intensify active participation in peace-making labors to preserve the sacred gift of life on earth." "This is the more important in that at the present Christians are particularly called upon to give testimony to the world of a principled attitude toward the burning questions of the present time -- war and peace," the communique says.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY PROGRAM VIEWED

PM260857 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Matveyev "Political Observer's Opinion": "Mirages and Ordinary Frenchmen"]

[Text] Events in French domestic life are now attracting attention outside the country as well. For the first time in 6 years, 4.5 million state employees went on strike in support of their demands for the defense of their rights and interests in the face of the "austerity" program adopted by the government. Major strikes have been held by coal industry, ferrous metallurgy, and shipbuilding workers... These are the actions of the organized working class: the struggle is headed by the General Labor Confederation (CGT) and other trade union associations.

Until recently, however, the government relied on the support of the largest trade unions in its efforts designed primarily to free the country of mass unemployment and to resolve other acute internal problems.

What has changed? The emphasis is now placed on seeking a way out of the accumulating economic difficulties at the expense of the interest of the broad sections of the population. This is what the newspapers are saying. This is what influential politicians are pointing out. Against such a backdrop, as recent reports from France attest, disagreements are also growing within the leadership of the Socialist party which heads the left-wing coalition.

However, big capital and its political emissaries in the country, who greeted with hositility this coalition's advent to power 3 years ago, are continually exerting pressure from the Right by demanding an even greater toughening of the "austerity" program by means of an assault on working people's rights. Matters are reaching the point where attempts are being made to condemn substantial production capacities to idleness -- "until better days..." Right-wing extremists and groups of thugs are rearing their heads. In a special letter the French Communist Party [PCF] Politburo drew the president's attention to the rabid anticommunist campaign that is being launched in the country. Even U.S. official representatives in France are joining in it.

Some 60 percent of French foreign trade, a U.S. economist argued in the weekly LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR last 18 November, goes to countries which "reject socialist ideals" and therefore, he wrote, if France wants to continue trading with them, "it will have to compromise..." And even though the nature of the compromise has not been deciphered, those people across the ocean are not hiding their plans to steer not only France's foreign policy but also its domestic policy in the direction that Washington wants. President F. Mitterrand's recent statement that the United States "is waging a kind of trade war against Europe and, what is more, an unusually tenacious war," is indicative. "It is not enough merely to complain or to state the facts. It is necessary to organize," Mitterrand added in the same speech.

Reducing unemployment, lowering inflation, and balancing foreign trade -- these are the very urgent and acute tasks which must be solved both for economic and political purposes, as French leaders emphasized in the past. The concentration of efforts in this direction was a promise made to the masses during the elections which brought the left-wing forces to power. And as G. Marchais, secretary general of the PCF, pointed out in his speech to the PCF Central Committee Plenum on 19 April last year, the left-wingers who are in power can overcome the current problems if they set about resolving them energetically.

But what does life show us? The country's unemployment is not falling, rather it is increasing. Massive new redundancies are taking place. Inflation remains high. It is true that there has been success in slowing down the growth in the foreign trade deficit but this has had no effect on those spheres of life which affect the fundamental interests of the bulk of the population.

The country's democratic forces are alarmed. They state that a slide toward the right is taking place and that a deviation can be observed from those guidelines which enabled the broad sections of the working people to rally behind the left-wing coalition.

Particular attention is being drawn to the extreme shortage of resources and capital required to provide urgent assistance to key sectors of industry and, consequently, to effectively combat mass unemployment. Last May, France's Common Market partners granted it the large loan that Paris has requested. However, even after this became known the government announced a reduction of capital investments in such nationalized sectors as the power industry, the railroads, and communications. As a result unemployment in these sectors will increase.

In a speech 1 year ago the French president spoke about the "intolerable wastage of material assets" as a result of the arms race. Quite right. This is why the Warsaw Pact states are proposing to the West negotiations on not increasing and on reducing military spending. What has been the official reaction by Paris? At the very least, tight-lippedness! But in fact the reaction has been to pursue a course toward building up the most destructive armaments at a time when France's actual national needs ought to have steered France toward the path leading toward focusing efforts in the civilian sphere.

So what is actually happening? The government intends to spend over FR800 billion on implementing a 5-year (1984-1988) program to build up its armaments, primarily its nuclear arms. Nuclear-weapon carrying Mirage fighter-bombers, missiles, and nuclear-powered submarines -- this is what these colossal resources, equal to France's entire annual national budget, will be spent on!

"Less butter, perhaps, but by no means fewer guns," was how LE MATIN, which is close to the Socialist Party, commented on French Defense Minister Hernu's statement on the government's determination to allocate all the credits planned in the military program despite the acute economic and social difficulties that the country is experiencing. One cannot help noticing that it is precisely those circles in France who are trying to weaken the left-wing forces' position and are dreaming of their own "revenge" that are demanding that the government tighten the screws even more for the sake of intensifying the arms race. Even that inflated spending which the government has already pledged to offer up on the altar of destructive armaments is not enough for them.

These preparations are being passed off by their initiators as evidence of France's resolve to "acquire greatness." A "greatness" acquired at the cost of extreme national overexertion!

WEINBERGER 'TO PRESSURE' NETHERLANDS ON MISSILES

LD272248 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The United States defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger, is to fly out to Western Europe on Wednesday night. One of the aims of the trip is to pressure the Dutch Government and parliament into agreeing, following Britain, Federal Germany and Italy, to provide the country's territory for the installation of new American first-strike missiles. More on the subject from our observer Vladislav Kozyakov.

Washington used a wide range of methods to make Holland agree to the deployment of missiles. It made promises and it made threats, and still all the three previous governments in that country kept postponing the approval of a decision. As far as the population of that country is concerned, most of its residents still refuse to have U.S. missiles on national territory.

What counterarguments can the chief of the Pentagon present during his visit to Holland? According to a spokesman of the Pentagon, one of the main points of his chief's statement in the Hague will be the following one. If there is a decision not to deploy it would deal a severe and possibly fatal blow to the resumption of negotiations on arms control between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is what Weinberger would argue, the spokesman of the Pentagon said.

What does the Reagan Administration hope to achieve by spreading obvious lies about the issue of missiles and talks? Maybe it has decided to follow one of the key principles of Goebbels's propaganda in Nazi Germany, which said that if a lie is often repeated it may be believed. The truth, meanwhile, is that the deployment of U.S. first-strike missiles in Western Europe had undermined the Soviet-American talks on both Euromissiles and strategic armaments. It sort of crowned Reagan's strategy, used to reject any compromise Soviet in favor of reducing nuclear armaments in Europe on the basis of equality and equal security. In fact the Administration sabotaged talks. The strategy logically led to the deployment, beginning last October, of Pershing Two's and cruise missiles in Britain, Federal Germany and Italy, which made further talks impossible. It's the deployment of U.S. missiles that, if the Pentagon spokesman's words are used, has dealt a fatal blow at the Soviet-American talks on arms control. And naturally an extension in the network of U.S. missiles, be that in Holland or in any other NATO country, will only aggravate the situation and create a greater obstacle on the road to further talks on limiting and reducing nuclear arms.

U.S. Political Ploys

LD271638 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

The Reagan administration is grossly pressuring the Netherlands to make it consent to the deployment of U.S. cruise missiles in Dutch territory. Quoting high-ranking Pentagon officials, Western news agencies report that the Washington leaders try to scare the Dutch Government by alleging that its refusal to accept cruise missiles "will deal a mortal blow" to the hopes for the resumption of the U.S.-Soviet talks on nuclear armaments in Europe. The same idea will be pursued by U.S. Defence Secretary Weinberger, who will come on a visit to the Netherlands on Thursday openly to twist the arms of Washington's NATO partner.

The U.S. position on nuclear arms reductions in Europe is false through and through. First the Reagan administration is not at all seeking the resumption of the Geneva talks, which it was sabotaging for a long time and eventually thwarted. The U.S. Government pursued at those talks for the sole objective of deploying by all means its nuclear missiles in Western Europe and therefore made proposals which were patently unacceptable to the Soviet side.

Second, having gone ahead with its missile deployments in Western Europe, the Reagan administration continues to deceive the U.S. and West European public with the allegations that U.S.-Soviet talks are quite possible in the situation when Pershing-2 and cruise missiles have already been deployed in a number of NATO countries. These political ploys resemble circus tricks intended to bluff the gullible public. Creating the impression that the U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles already deployed in Western Europe do not affect the position of the Soviet Union means wishful thinking.

The Reagan administration is no more honest towards its NATO partners as regards Washington's "flexible position" on nuclear arms in Europe either. This flexibility is illusory and exists only in words, whereas in reality the U.S. leaders are going ahead with the deployment of ever more nuclear missiles in close proximity of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and speeding up the process. All this feverish militarist activity is being covered up with the hypocritical claims that as soon as all the U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles are deployed and readied for action, the Soviet Union will immediately "return to the negotiating table."

This is how Washington is moving from one absurdity to another, calling upon its NATO partners to believe the tales that as soon as U.S. military might is enhanced in Europe and agreement with the Soviet Union on nuclear weapons will be "guaranteed." It would be naive to think that the Washington leaders cannot read Soviet official statements, in particular, on nuclear arms in Europe. These statements explain that deploying its nuclear medium-range missiles in Western Europe, the United States violated the basic principle of relations with the USSR, the principle of equality and equal security of the sides. Everyone understands that in this way the United States has created an additional strategic threat to the USSR and its European allies. In this situation there is no way to resume Soviet-American talks. It is only when the United States dismantles its medium-range nuclear missiles and takes them out of Europe that a possibility will be created to resume the dialogue. There can be no talking with Washington even if there is just one U.S. missile in Europe.

PEACE MOVEMENT 'SWEEPING' W. EUROPE, U.S.

LD271809 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS — TASS Commentator Vasiliy Kharkov writes: Italian defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini told the Italian House of Deputies on Monday that the first batch of American cruise missiles in Comiso, Sicily, "will be brought to operational readiness by the end of this month." Highly-placed NATO spokesman said, however, on the same day, REUTER reported from Brussels, that the 16 American cruise missiles deployed in Comiso were already combat-ready.

Let us not look for a discrepancy in these reports, for, in the final analysis, it does not matter much whether the American missiles in Comiso have taken up combat positions today or will do this tomorrow. The important fact is, however, that, by increasing its first-strike capability in Western Europe, Washington is increasing the nuclear threat.

The new American missiles have been installed in Italy, just as in a number of other NATO countries, contrary to the will of the overwhelming majority of the people living in these countries. In Italy, for example, 80 percent of the respondents voiced their oppostion to the American carriers of nuclear death during an unofficial referendum recently. In some areas there the figure was even higher. In Friuli-Venice-Giulia, for example, 92.5 percent of the polled said they are against the American deployments.

The powerful anti-missile movement, sweeping Western Europe, reflects the popular masses' anger at the actions of those who are sacrificing the security of the continent to Washington's nuclear ambitions. The Pentagon and the NATO staff hoped that after the deployment of the first American nuclear missiles the movement would subside as the republic would allegedly be confronted with a fait accompli. But, far from subsiding, the anti-nuke movement has mounted even further and is being joined by even those public groups which previously kept outside the anti-missile campaign.

Peace actions by trade unions, political parties, women's and youth organizations, scientists, physicians and clergymen are becoming ever more vigorous. This is true also of the United States itself.

The awareness of the fact that the deployment of the new American weapons of mass annihilation is greatly reducing the security of Western Europe and increasing the risk of retribution for those countries, where they have been sited, is growing. An appeal issued to the Dutch parliament and government by the influential Dutch Council of Churches, warning that the American missiles will create a very big threat to Holland's security, is characteristic in this respect. The Pentagon and the NATO command will not ask the countries, where the American missiles are on station, when to push the botton.

Decision-making on the question, which means life or death to millions of people, is, thus, being given away to the Washington Administration, which is unpredictable in its conduct, and to NATO's belligerent commanders. But this means in effect the making of Western Europe into a nuclear hostage of the United States.

CPSU'S KONOPLEV RETURNS FROM WEST BERLIN

PM271309 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Return Home"]

[Text] The CPSU delegation headed by B.V. Konoplev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Perm CPSU Obkom, which traveled to West Berlin at the invitation of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin Board, has returned to Moscow.

SPANISH TRADE UNION DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

Trip to Georgia

LD230954 Moscow TASS in English 0918 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Tbilisi March 23 TASS -- TASS correspondent Zurab Grdzelishvili writes:

Nicolas Redondo, secretary-general of the General Union of Spanish Workers, was welcomed in his native Basque in the capital of Georgia. The delegation he leads, staying in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the trade union centre of the USSR, spent two days in this Soviet Transcaucasian republic, familiarising themselves with life here.

"We attach much importance to this visit to the USSR," Nicolas Redondo told the TASS correspondent. "It will undoubtedly serve the extension and deepening of links between the trade unions of our countries.

In a frank and businesslike conversation in Moscow with leaders of the trade union centre of the USSR we identified concrete opportunities for developing cooperation between our branch trade unions. Visiting a number of factories in Georgia, in particular a large iron-and-steel making works in Rustavi, we noticed the high standard of labour safety arrangements there, which explain the absence of injuries among workers, and successful team contract methods of organizing work. Workers' direct involvement in running production and in decision-making on social matters such as the distribution of housing among working people and the protection of their health was what impressed us especially."

The guests from Spain were received at the parliament of Georgia and at the republican trade union centre and visited Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia.

Visit 'Fruitful'

LD231946 Moscow TASS in English 1924 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS -- The parties to the negotiations, which ended in Moscow today, expressed mutual interest in establishment and development of Soviet-Spanish trade union links. The delegations were led by Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of the Trade Unions of the U.S.S.R. (AUCCTU) Stepan Shalayev and General Secretary of the General Union of the Working People of Spain Nicolas Redondo.

At the concluding press conference the general secretary of the General Union of the Working People of Spain described as fruitful the first official visit of representatives of the trade union center to the Soviet Union. "Our organisations", he said, "declared the striving to act for the name of peace and detente, and this is the main thing."

The head of the Spanish delegation described the situation, which developed in Europe, as "extremely dangerous" to security of the peoples. At the forum of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the European Confederation of Trade Unions, which were held last year, the General Union of the Working People of Spain declared for consolidation of peace and for disarmament, Redondo recalled. He stressed that at its congress the General Union of the Working People of Spain declared for the country's withdrawal from NATO.

During the stay in the U.S.S.R., Redondo said, the delegation met with workers, familiarised themselves with activities of trade unions in improving labour and living conditions of the working people, which "was undoubtedly useful for us". The members of the delegation felt the sincere striving of the Soviet people for peace. "Though Spain and the Soviet Union have different social systems, we have the common desire -- mankind must not perish from a nuclear war".

Departs 24 Mar

LD241059 Moscow TASS in English 0855 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- A delegation from the General Union of Spanish Workers led by its General Secretary Nicolas Redondo left Moscow today. The delegation stayed in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR's Central Trade Union Council.

At the airport, the visitors were seen off by Chairman of the Soviet Central Trade Union Council Stepan Shalayev and other officials.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS GREETS SOVIET-SWEDISH PANEL

PM271443 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 84 First Edition p 1

[Text] To the participants in the 12th session of the Soviet-Swedish Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation

The USSR Council of Ministers greets the participants in the 12th session of the Soviet-Swedish Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which is coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the signing of the first trade agreement between our states.

The intergovernmental commission's active work has promoted the development of trade and economic ties between our countries. Good prospects for their further expansion are opened up by the long-term program for economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation between the USSR and Sweden for the period 1981 through 1990. The task today is to seek new ways and opportunities for expanding and intensifying advantageous cooperation for the benefit of both countries' peoples.

Even now, when the international situation has been seriously exacerbated through the fault of the imperialist forces, the Soviet Union is continuing to pursue a peace-loving foreign policy aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war and safeguarding the people's security. We are convinced that the development of Soviet-Swedish cooperation will not only help to consolidate the mutual understanding and trust between our countries but will also contribute to the maintenance and continuation of the all-European process of detente in the interests of strengthening peace.

We wish the participants of the 12th session of the commission successful and fruitful work.

USSR Council of Ministers

GREEK, SOVIET IDENTITY OF VIEWS STRESSED

LD250915 Moscow TASS in English 0805 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- "Our common goal is to promote traditional friendship between our countries and to take fresh steps on the road of goodneighbourliness", SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA says today.

The Greek people are today marking their indepencence day. Our relations of good-neighbourliness, the newspaper stresses, are based on the common interest of the Soviet and Greek people in strengthening peace and security in Europe and all over the world and on their shared desire to promote detente and large-scale international cooperation. It is symptomatic that the positions of the U.S.S.R. and Greece on major aspects of the development of bilateral relations and on a number of international problems are to a large extent identical. This holds true, in particular, for such a major problem of our time as disarmament. Both our countries are profoundly convinced of the need to put an end to the arms race. The U.S.S.R. and Greece advocate stronger security and broader cooperation in Europe.

Both states, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA continues, have spoken on more than one occasion in favour of establishing nuclear-free zones, in particular, in the Balkans, viewing them as a major contribution towards nuclear disarmament.

Soviet-Greek relations are making good progress in the economy. According to tentative estimates, the volume of bilateral trade last year was worth more than 685 million roubles. The U.S.S.R. has considerably increased its purchases of Greek goods. Contacts in culture, science and sport are also developing well.

The Soviet people, the newspaper says, follow with interest the efforts of the Greek Government, formed as a result of the electoral victory of the left-wing forces, to pursue its domestic program, while countering external pressure and intrigues of domestic reaction and overcoming considerable difficulties, and wish it every success.

ALLEGATIONS OF EASTERN PLOT AGAINST POPE HIT

LD252316 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2140 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow 25 Mar (TASS) -- E. Guz's book about the background of the attempt on the pope's life, recently published in Warsaw, points out that the concoction alleging some sort of "Eastern plot against the pope" was found to be necessary by international imperialism in order to undermine the process of normalization in Poland, to justify the militant policies of the Reagan administration towards the socialist community countries and, at the same time, to distract attention from United States' bloody terror against Lebanon, Nicaragua and Washington's actions in other hot spots of the world. PRAVDA writes about this in connection with the fact that the Italian authorities have again thrown S. Antonov, the Bulgarian citizen, behind bars.

The authors of this vile provocation which, as far as its dimensions are concerned, ranks with the setting on fire, by the Hitlerites, of the building of the German Reichstag in 1933, apparently reckoned that, in one go, they would manage to distract the public attention from the sociopolitical roots of terorism which, thanks to Washington having started to get the ball rolling, became a mass phenomenon in the West.

During the course of long-drawn out judicial investigation, however, the newspaper underlines, in spite of obvious pressure from across the ocean and ever-increasing activity of certain Italian cirlces of a right-wing persuasion, the mountains of fabricated 'facts' were proved untrue, the obstructions caused by anticommunist inventions were cleared away, and Agca, the chief witness for the prosecution, was found guilty of lying.

Who and why thought it necessary to revive this clearly failed provocation? It isn't difficult to answer this question. Obviously, the just and humane outcome of the so-called case involving S. Antonov did not satisfy the authors of this large-scale anticommunist show. The reactionary forces in the West, frightened by the mass antiwar movement, decided to revive the myth about "red terrorism" in order to sow doubt in the minds of the opponents of the arms race and draw their attention away from the deployment of the new U.S. missiles in Britain, the FRG, and also in Italy, where the vast majority of the population, is against turning Sicily into a testing ground for the deadly U.S. cruise missiles.

U.S. EMBASSY MOVE PART OF ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL

LD271856 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Aleksey Zlatorunskiy]

[Text] The Muslims all over the world are greatly and sincerely angered by the U.S. intention to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. There has been no argumentative correspondence between King Hassan II, the king of Morocco, who is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and President Reagan. However, in spite of that, President Reagan claims in his letters that this is not his idea, but that the insistence on moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is coming from Congress, where the influence of the Zionist lobby is strong.

It is ridiculous to think that Reagan and his Cabinet are isolated from this issue. In spite of that, they cannot understand the legitimate anger that this action would create in the Islamic World.

This started long ago. The United States has always supported every Zionist action to usurp and colonialize the Arab lands, including east Jerusalem, which is traditionally Muslim. Does not the Reagan administration know that the Zionist leaders -- some of them repeatedly visit the U.S. capital and are warmly welcomed there -- have repeatedly announced that Jerusalem is the capital of the Zionist state, that it will never be divided or returned to the Arabs, and that the UN resolution to give the holy city special status will never be implemented? Never! It does know. It also knows that some of the money that is donated by the United States to Israel is spent on rebuilding Jerusalem in order to evict the Muslims from it and to settle Jews there.

Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, whether it is implemented now or later, is a logical development of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and in line with Washington's full support for all the Israeli anti-Arab actions.

RUMSFELD TRYING TO PUSH 'REAGAN PLAN' IN CAIRO

PM271308 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Peresada dispatch under the general heading: "The Near East Knot"]

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar -- D. Rumsfeld, the U.S. President's special representative in the Near East, who is on another tour of the region, has visited here. He met with Egyptian President H. Mubarak, after which all that was announced was a list of oft-discussed Near East problems. Rumsfeld has nothing new in his portfolio, a U.S. State Department spokesman stated, intimating that the goal of the trans-Atlantic emissary's present trip remains that of trying to push the deadlocked "Reagan plan."

However, observers point out, the chances of revitalizing this plan, which has been rejected by the majority of Arab countries and by the PLO, are even slimmer today than before. The failure of American policy in Lebanon and Jordan's refusal to enter into separate talks with Israel have dealt a fresh blow to Washington's venture. It is no accident that Beirut, contrary to "tradition," has been excluded from Rumsfeld's itinerary for the first time, or that his visit to Amman, so AFP writes, is in question.

Reagan's envoy left Cairo for Israel. In anticipation of his arrival, Tel Aviv radio stated that the "United States could compensate for its series of Near East failures by still closer cooperation with its most reliable ally in the region."

MENGISTU VISIT'S SIGNIFICANCE EXPLORED

LD271518 Moscow in English to Africa 2000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] It has been announced in Moscow and Addis Ababa that the Ethiopian Leader, Mengistu Haile Mariam, is to arrive in the Soviet Union at the end of the month for a working visit of friendship. He was invited by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government. Radio Moscow commentator Georgiy Tanov writes the following:

Summit-level contacts have become a permanent factor and important peculiarity of Soviet-Ethiopian relations. These began to grow on a qualitatively new basis after the Ethiopian people's revolution. At its plenary meeting last June, the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee noted that what brings the Soviet Union and such countries as Ethiopia together is not only a common anti-imperialist position, but the common ideals of social justice and progress as well. The Soviet Union is fully aware of the problems facing the socialist-oriented developing countries. They need to scale up their economies and enhance the social awareness of the masses. Beside, African life has shown that progressive countries become the main target of aggression and blackmail by imperialist powers and reactionary regimes, and Ethiopia is no exception.

The Soviet Union and Socialist Ethiopia bore this in mind when they signed a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in November 1978. The document reflects the trust and friendship between the two countries and the broad opportunities to advance them. At the same time, it focuses on the basic principles of relations between the socialist community and the progressive developing countries. The treaty provides not only for large-scale cooperation between the two countries, including cooperation on the world scene, but also for permanent consultations. It's at this angle that we view the coming Soviet-Ethiopian summit meeting. This meeting will take place against the growing and comprehensive cooperation between the USSR and Socialist Ethiopia.

With Soviet help, Ethiopia has built, is building, or is designing some 40 major economic projects. Those under construction include a factory to assemble tractors and other farm machines, Ethiopia's largest hydropower station at Malka Wekana, stations to maintain and repair farming machines, and special vocational schools. Besides, huge acreages of virgin land are being reclaimed in the southwest of the country. Hundreds of Soviet specialists are working in Ethiopia. They are teachers and crop experts, doctors and geological prospectors, engineers and economists. More than 1,500 graduates of Soviet colleges and vocational schools are working in Ethiopia. Another 3,500 or so are studying in the Soviet Union. Thousands of skilled Ethiopian workers have been trained at the construction sites and (?in) maintenance of the industrial facilities.

The USSR and Ethiopia hold the same positions on key international problems, both global and regional. For instance, Ethiopia is strongly against the deployment of American nuclear missiles in Western Europe. It assesses them (?by right) as endangering not only the fraternal socialist countries, but the progessive countries in Africa, the Middle East and Southwest Africa. The Soviet Union is against (? the) imperialist (? actions) of militarization and destabilization of Africa and regions around it, in particular against the attempts of turning northeast Africa into a springboard against Ethiopia and other progressive countries in the area.

The coming visit of the Ethiopian leader to Moscow reflects the onward character of Soviet-Ethiopian relations. At the same time, it is significant that the visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of the national democratic revolution in Ethiopia, that's more than a jubilee. Ethiopia and the countries friendly to it view the anniversary as a major landmark in Ethiopian life. It's believed that the 10th anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution is (? linked) with such signal events as the formation of the governing Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party of Ethiopia, the Proclamation of the People's Democratic Republic, and the beginning of action on an unheard-of 10-year plan for national development. The plan is aimed at laying the foundation for a socialist society.

AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH NORTH YEMEN NOTED

PM260935 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 21 Mar 84 p 3

[V. Dmitriyev article: "Internationalist Duty"]

[Text] The 20th anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Treaty between the USSR and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and of the agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries falls on 21 March.

These documents opened up new opportunities for developing Soviet-Yemeni ties, which date back to the late twenties. The 190-km Al-Hudaydah-Ta'izz highway was constructed in 1966-69 with the assistance of Soviet organizations. It linked the "European capital" of Ta'izz with the port of Al-Hudaydah and crossed the country's most promising agricultural regions, opening up convenient access to the sea for them. In terms of its specifications, the Al-Hudaydah-Ta'izz stretch is one of the YAR's best highways.

The Bajil Cement plant, which was commissioned in 1973, was a major cooperation project. It laid the foundations for the creation of a national cement industry in the YAR. In 1983, cement production at Bajil had already reached 91,000 metric tons. The Bajil plant made a considerable contribution to substantial savings of foreign currency, which the republic previously spent on buying cement from abroad.

At the request of the YAR Government work to enlarge the plant is currently being completed. All the necessary equipment has been delivered from the USSR. A trial startup of the second phase of the plant is slated for May 1984. The plant will produce 250,000 metric tons of cement annually.

The YAR was also given help in the sphere of agriculture. In 1975, with the help of Soviet organizations, the Sardud state project was commissioned, within the framework of which 1,100 hectares of land was prepared for agricultural use, around 40 km of irrigation canals with regulation installations were constructed, 20 artesian wells were sunk, and a diesel power station and power transmission lines were erected. The USSR delivered agricultural equipment which is successfully working in the fields even now.

Sardud is having a marked influence on strengthening the positions of the state sector in the YAR's agriculture. The irrigated lands opened up in this context comprise more than 30 percent of the state sector's total land area. Yields from these lands are three times higher than the country's average. Sardud is becoming a school of progessive agrotechnical experience in the country.

The USSR's assistance is also considerable in the training of national cadres. Dozens of Soviet specialists work in the YAR. At virtually every industrial enterprise, you can meet Yemeni graduates of Soviet VUZ's who enjoy deserved respect and prestige for their high skills.

Fruitful Soviet-Yemeni economic and technical cooperation continues to develop. With the USSR's assistance, a number of new projects will be constructed in North Yemen on the basis of new documents signed in recent years. It is planned to give the YAR help in setting up a scheme for using the San'a basin's water resources and for modernizing the Al-Hudaydah-Ta'izz, Bajil-Sardud, and other highways.

In accordance with the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the YAR in November 1983, there was an exchange of congratulatory telegrams expressing confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the YAR will further strengthen for the benefit of the two countries and in the interests of establishing a firm and just peace in the Near East.

IRAN CW 'MISINFORMATION' PLAYING INTO U.S. HANDS

LD250755 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Mar 84 p 3

[A. Biryukov article: "Who Benefits?"]

[Text] The other day Iran's labor and social affairs minister, Abol Qasem Sarhadizadeh, attempted to accuse the Soviet Union of...complicity in the use of chemical weapons in the Iranian-Iraqi war. Moreover, the Iranian statesman tried in this respect to put on one plank the Soviet Union, which is consistently working for the prohibition of chemical weapons and the elimination of their stockpiles, and the United States, which has repeatedly used chemical weapons on a wide scale and which is stubbornly blocking an international agreement completely abolishing chemical weapons from the arms arsenals.

His pronouncement was one of the latest in a series of slanderous statements and publications on that subject by Iranian officials and mass media, initiated by the official Iranian news agency IRNA. It shows that certain forces in the Iranian ruling circles continue to whip up a slanderous campaign against a neighboring country, the Soviet Union, without any grounds whatsoever.

What gave the pretext for such allegations? What prompted the Iranian authorities to make a propaganda u-turn, dropping charges of chemical arms supplies against Britain and France and now blaming the USSR, which they claim supplies chemical agents to Iraq and trains Iraqi servicemen in their use? The pretext was just a publication on this subject by the Turkish newspaper GUNES, which for its part "borrowed" for that falsehood "facts" from a report sent out by the Pentagon to all the NATO countries.

As we see it, the source of the slanderous anti-Soviet campaign whipped up in Iran is the same as that of the futile campaign to hold the USSR responsible for either handing over chemical weapons to some party or for using chemical agents in Laos, Kampuchea, and Afghanistan. In both cases, the supplier of "facts" -- or rather, misinformation -- is the U.S. special services, the Pentagon and the CIA, whose product the Washington administration uses without hesitation, first, to make the world forget the atrocious crimes of the U.S. Army in Vietnam and other Indochinese countries, where chemical weapons were used on an unprecedented scale, and second, to justify its own preparations for large-scale chemical warfare.

In fiscal 1985 alone, the administration intends to secure $1.1 billion in appropriations for the purpose, a considerable portion of them intended to produce nerve binary munitions. The Pentagon asks for $813 million to train American troops for chemical warfare.

But while the propaganda efforts of the Washington slanderers are easy to explain, the lies and slander of the Iranian authorities are difficult to understand. Tehran must surely be aware of the commonly known facts about our country's approach to the question of chemical weapons. For instance, the Soviet Union was the first to join the 1925 Geneva protocol prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, toxic, and other similar gases and bacteriological means; and it was at the Soviet initative that Soviet-American talks on chemical weapons were started in 1976, and subsequently blocked unilaterally by Washington. All the initiatives consistently made by the USSR at different forums are aimed at protecting mankind from the possible use of chemical weapons.

One gets the impression that the point is not the ignorance of the Iranian authorities, but the fact that certain forces in Iran need very much an anti-Soviet campaign to justify the appeals of the "hawkish" circles for a "war unto the end" with Iraq. They also need it to distract the attention of the Iranian people from a host of problems created daily by that senseless war, bleeding the country white and dooming its people to unbearable privations.

Moreover, Tehran's stubborn repetition of the Pentagon's propaganda stereotypes, aimed at provoking a hostile attitude toward the Soviet Union, prompts the question: Are not certain forces in Iran trying in this way "to build bridges" with those who quite recently were the mainstay of the shah's regime overthrown by the people?

The anti-Soviet campaign initiated in Tehran is obviously at odds with the interests of the Iranian people. It only plays into the hands of the forces with an interest in destabilizing that country and in sowing hostility between Iran and the Soviet Union.

CPSU GREETS TUNISIAN DESTOUR PARTY ON ANNIVERSARY

LD272000 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee congratulated the Central Committee of the Destour Socialist Party of Tunisia on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Destour Socialist Party which led the struggle for the liberation of Tunisia from domination by colonialists, and has been leading the country since it attained independence. The congratulations expressed best wishes to the Destour Socialist Party and the friendly Tunisian people for successes in strengthening the country's sovereignty and securing its progress and prosperity.

'POLITICAL MANEUVERING' AGAINST ANGOLA VIEWED

LD272238 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] On 27 March, Angola marks 8 years since South African troops were driven out of Angola when they invaded it in order to impose an undemocratic pro-Western regime on that nation. The following commentary was written by our staff member Oleg Lavrukhin:

The attacks launched against Angola by South Africa, a country that has long since been outlawed and expelled from most international organizations, was none other than an open act of international terrorism. But young Angola got help from the socialist community. The invasion was rebuffed and the racists were driven out of Angola.

But in the 8 years that followed, the apartheid knights and their mercenaries went on with their military adventures, impeding the Angolan people from building their life.

Pretoria and its closest ally the United States (?disliked) independent foreign policies of the People's Republic of Angola for that nation's steady wish to build socialism or its support for the national liberation movement in South Africa and Namibia. In the acts of aggression committed by South Africa against the young republic, Angola suffered a great material damage and 15,000 Angolans were killed or wounded. Many times the country had to restore its economy, destroyed in the war, and rebuff new attacks by Pretoria and its allies.

Now the enemies of People's Angola have decided to resort to political maneuvering. The men who just recently authorized bombing and destruction of Angolan towns and villages are now unanimous in claiming they want peace, stability, and good-neighborly relations. But the terms they (?move) are practically unacceptable to Angola.

In the meantime, the leaders of the anti-Angolan groups, the FLEC and the FNLA, arrived in Washington and the former state secretary, Alexander Haig, came to Namibia to meet with the UNITA leader Savimbi. All this fully exposes the enemies of the People's Republic of Angola. Their sole aim is to weaken the ranks of the defenders of the Angolan revolution and bully that nation into negotiations with the puppets from UNITA and other mercenary bands.

Luanda's stand on this issue was expressed plainly and explicitly in the Angolan-Cuban joint declaration. That stand has been supported by an overwhelming majority of nations. But Pretoria met it with irritation. Lasting peace in the south of Africa can only be achieved by strict observance of the applicable resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, not by American and South African maneuvering, prompted among other things by time-serving interests of the U.S. Administration in view of the coming presidential election.

As for the Security Council's resolutions, they are quite explicit in demanding the withdrawal of the South African troops from Angola and independence for Namibia, and this is the road to peace in the south of Africa.

GUINEAN OFFICIALS STUDY USSR AGRICULTURE

PM270834 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Stay"]

[Text] A delegation of secretaries of the Democratic Party of Guinea [PDG] federations headed by S. Keita, member of the PDG Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union 11 through 22 March in accordance with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the PDG. It familiarized itself with experience of the CPSU's work in the leadership of agriculture. In addition to Moscow, the delegation visited the Tajik SSR.

The Guinean comrades had meetings and talks at the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Department and International Department, the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee, the USSR Ministry of Procurement, and the Tsentrosoyuz.

The delegation visited a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises and cultural, educational, and scientific research establishments. The Guinean guests pointed out that the Soviet people's achievements in building a society of developed socialism and in fulfilling the Food Program made a big impression on them.

They evaluated highly the peace-loving foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state and the Soviet Union's assistance to the peoples of Africa in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and racism for the strengthening of national independence.

REAGAN PLEASED WITH EL SALVADOR ELECTION RESULTS

LD272333 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] Vote counting is continuing in El Salvador following the elections on Sunday directed by Washington. Already some of those who participated in that dirty political spectacle -- the right-wing parties -- are demanding that the results be nullified. According to preliminary results, the inveterate intriguer, Napoleon Duarte, leader of the Christian Democrat Party, who has already been president of El Salvador once, has the best chance of victory. If he manages to return to the presidential chair, and everything indicates that that is how it will be -- he is, as you see, already winning in today's reports -- then the White House will probably be extremely satisfied. As the bulletin of the research organization, the North American Congress on Latin America, writes, the Christian Democrat party has already demonstrated on more than one occasion that it is ready to sacrifice whatever and whomever is necessary for the sake of the struggle against communism.

Not waiting for the official announcement on the election results, President Reagan has already hastened to express his satisfaction with its outcome. Speaking in Washington, he waxed eloquent over the victory of freedom in El Salvador. Official White House spokesman Speakes has reported that this week the President is personally going to try to convince the Senate to approve the allocation of more than $60 million for further urgent military aid to El Salvador. According to Washington's ideas on democracy, civil rights and freedoms are now being scrupulously observed in that nation of bloodshed.

U.S. TROOPS ARRIVE IN HONDURAS FOR 'WAR GAMES'

LD271400 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Managua March 27 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Gorbunov reports: Hundreds of American troops and their combat equipment have again started arriving at military airfields in Honduras. The population of that Central American country has already lost the count of the endless maneuvers that are being held in its territory by the United States. "Emergency" "Kilo-Punch" exercises staged in Honduras by the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division, which has gained notoriety by its crimes against the people of Grenada, ended just two days ago. Those war games were, for their part, preceded by the joint American-Honduran maneuvers "Big Pine II." Those war games, the largest in the history of Central America, lasted for several months. Later this week the U.S. and Honduran military will again begin to assume battle formation.

The planned muscle-flexing exercise, codenamed "Granadero I," is an open provocation in conditions where Central America is gripped by an explosive crisis.

Simultaneously with the war games, which will involve over 3,000 U.S. servicemen, American engineer troops will start building another two new air bases on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of Honduras.

The true aim of all these "routine exercises", as Pentagon spokesman usually call these U.S. aggressive preparations, is to convert Honduras into a huge staging area for U.S. armed interventions against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Other U.S. Exercises Listed

LD272319 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] Washington is continuing to exacerbate the situation in Central America, and is doing this in several directions at once. First, the fierce propaganda campaign by the White House, and literally all other echelons of the administration -- the State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA, USIA -- against Nicaragua is not abating. Second, aid to the Somoza bands based in Honduras is being stepped up. Here the map you see shows the location of some of the bases of Somoza bands in Honduras. [shots of map of Central America] Finally, direct pressure by force on countries of the region, above all Nicaragua, is increasing. The Pentagon is openly flexing its muscles, as is demonstrated by the almost constant military maneuvers it is holding in this region. [shots of transport aircraft and U.S. Marines]

A few hours before the start of the elections, something like mini maneuvers were held in El Salvador. Some 350 U.S. troops were transported to the vicinity of El Salvador, to Honduras, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to try to intimidate the patriots of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, to show them that Washington will not take its finger off the trigger of the pistol aimed at El Salvador's temple. [shots of map of El Salvador and Honduras]

Simultaneous preparations are now underway for two military maneuvers in this region. The first of these will start on 20 April and will last 2 weeks. They will be the largest this year in the Caribbean Basin; joint military exercises in which units of the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Army will participate. [shots of marines disembarking from ships] The Pentagon has reported that the aircraft carrier America, submarines, marine landing forces, 250 aircraft of the Strategic Air Command and units of the 82d Airborne Division -- these are the same crusaders who rode roughshod over Grenada -- will take part in the Caribbean exercises.

The exercises, which are code-named "Ocean Venture-84," are to practice transporting reinforcements and to simulate the evacuation of the U.S. base at Guantanamo on the southeast coast of Cuba, as well as to practice combat fire on the island of Puerto Rico and on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques. [shots of map showing Guantanamo, Puerto Rico, and Vieques]

The exercises are aimed at enhancing the United States' ability to protect and ensure free use of sea lanes in the Caribbean Basin and the Gulf of Mexico. That is what the Pentagon stated so grandly, resorting to a traditional explanation of their actions -- to ensure the free use of sea lanes. One might think that sea lanes are threatened by someone other than the U.S. combat vessels themselves, which are building up, concentrating in such numbers, in such density, in several vital regions -- the Caribbean Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean -- so that a threat to free navigation really does exist in those zones. That is not even to mention the piratical actions of mining Nicaraguan ports organized by mercenaries of the CIA.

The second set of exercises, code-named "Grenadier I," will take place in May in the direct vicinity of Nicaragua.

The WASHINGTON POST has published a report by a special representative of the Pentagon which says that U.S. construction battalions, which are building fortifications in Honduras, will work closer than ever before to the Nicaraguan border during these exercises. Washington's strivings to internationalize the undeclared war against the Nicaraguan people, to involve other Central American states in it, are appreciable. Thus, in the "Granadero-I" exercises military units from Panama, Guatemala, and possibly El Salvador, in addition to those of the United States and Honduras, will participate for the first time. It seems to me the participation of El Salvador is in question. It will not be so easy for the worthless warriors of the El Salvador Government to spare even one battalion, because the patriots are thoroughly wearing them out.

Construction of new military installations for these exercises is being feverishly carried out in Honduras. In particular, two more runways, from which further provocations against Nicaragua will be carried out; provocations as infamous and base as those that have been carried out recently, and which will be just as unsuccessful.

'Grenadier I' Maneuvers Previewed

LD281047 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Managua March 28 TASS -- Correspondent [as received] Aleksandr Trushin reports:

Representatives of the Honduran Army Command have announced that the military manoeuvres "Grenadero-I", the largest in the Central American history, involving the Pentagon and starting April 1, will spread to a vast zone only 20 kilometres away from Nicaragua. Earlier the Pentagon planned to stage the manouevres in the region adjacent to the borders of Guatemala and El Salvador.

The Reagan administration has lately resorted to a sharp escalation of aggressive actions aimed at suppressing the Sandinist people's revolution. The U.S. espionage agency rushed several Somozist formations to Nicaraguan border regions. U.S. mercenaries destroy peasant cooperatives' property, abduct and kill inocent people. Flights of U.S.-made aircraft over Nicaraguan territory have become more frequent. The Reagan administration bears the direct responsibility for the heavy mining of Nicaraguan sea ports. Several foreign commercial ships, including the Soviet tanker Lugansk, have already been damaged by the explosion of U.S. mines.

There are numerous proofs of the preparation by the White House of direct military invasion of Nicaragua. The upcoming provocative exercises "Grenadero-I", for the participation in which, apart from Honduras, the United States drew the military of the Salvadoran and Guatemalan regimes, may become a prelude to the armed aggression.

According to local press reports quoting statements by officials of the Honduran Army, the Pentagon is planning to expand, within the framework of the manoeuvres starting April 1, the runways in the Jamastran zone of Paraiso Department in Honduras, which in fact borders with Nicaragua. The military airfield in Jamastran will be capable to receive U.S. combat and heavy transport aircraft.

BAYBAKOV RECEIVES NICARAGUAN PLANNING MINISTER

PM271322 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In a Spirit of Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] On 22 March, N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan, had a meeting with H. Ruiz, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front leadership and Nicaraguan minister of planning, who is paying a working visit to Moscow. Urgent and long-term questions of the development of economic relations between the USSR and Nicaragua were discussed during the talks, which were held in a spirit of full mutual understanding.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed

LD231522 Moscow TASS in English 1501 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS -- "The friendly relations between Nicaragua and the Soviet Union, which strengthen with every passing day -- are an earnest of our country's successful socio-economic development, "[as received] Henry Ruiz, Nicaragua's planning minister, said here today. He signed a number of documents aimed at a further deepening and widening of Soviet-Nicaraguan economic cooperation. On behalf of the Soviet Union they were signed by Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The intergovernmental protocol provides, in particular, for Soviet technical assistance to Nicaragua in building oil tank farms in the country's west. On top of that, the sides will cooperate in expanding the output capacity of Nicaragua's textile industry. Thus, for example, the output capacity of the "Tecnica" works will be increased to reach 3.2 thousand tonnes of yarn a year.

At the present time, some 20 economic projects are under contruction in that Latin American country by the joint efforts of Soviet and Nicaraguan organisations. A well developed telecommunications system is being created, a plan for the use of the hydropower resources of the Matagalpa River is being drawn up. The two countries will cooperate also in carrying out in Nicaragua's territory a large complex of geological prospecting for solid minerals.

The training of national personnel has become an important field of bilateral cooperation. At the present time, three vocational training centres — a polytechnical, power engineering and an agricultural one are being created in Nicaragua with Soviet assistance.

The close Soviet-Nicaraguan cooperation is evidence of the wish of the two countries to strengthen friendship between the Soviet and Nicaraguan people, Yakov Ryabov told the signing ceremony today.

NICARAGUAN OFFICIALS CITED ON LUGANSK AFFAIR

PM271531 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition pp 1, 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Call Terrorists to Account": "The Peoples Condemn the U.S. Act of Sabotage in a Nicaraguan Port"]

[Text] Managua, 23 Mar -- The news of the malicious sabotage of the Soviet tanker Lugansk which was blown up by a mine laid by U.S. mercenaries in the Nicaraguan port of Sandino on 20 March, has aroused profound indignation here over the Reagan administration's brazen aggressive policy.

This crime is a direct consequence of the new wave of terror unleashed by the Reagan administration against the Nicaraguan people, Sergio Ramires, member of the Junta of Nicaragua's Government of National Reconstruction, declared.

The White House bears all responsibility for the mining of the republic's ports -- as a result of which the tanker Lugansk has suffered, Hugo Torres, chief of the Sandinist People's Army Political Directorate, emphasized. These acts of terrorism, he pointed out at a press conference, are carried out with the help of depth mines obtained by counter-revolutionary mercenaries from the U.S. Administration. There is good reason to believe that the American warships constantly cruising off Nicaragua's shores release high-speed launches into its territorial waters especially adapted for laying mines in the republic's seaports.

H. Torres did not rule out the possibility that the United States resorts to the use of other military hardware, including its submarines, to carry out these acts of terror. Sabotage against foreign ships, he emphasized, is a scandalous crime which jeopardizes international maritime traffic in the region.

The sabotage against the Soviet ship was a consequence of the policy of state terrorism being pursued by the Reagan administration, BARRICADA, the official organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, writes. Pointing to the escalation of American aggression against Nicar-gua, the newspaper points out that foreign merchant ships, including the Soviet tanker Lugansk, have fallen victim to the sea blockade of Nicaragua. It is a question of piratical actions against states which are not at war with the United States. The mining of Nicaraguan coastal waters is an act of unbridled aggression leading to the widening of American terrorism, which attests to the madness of the Reagan administration's policy. The United States is grossly encroaching upon the right of free navigation, which is guaranteed by international law. The American Administration has overstepped all bounds of moral and political norms of interstate relations.

"How would the Washington administration react if one of the victims of American terrorism decided to mine U.S. ports and territorial waters?" -- the newspaper asks. Fortunately for mankind, the Soviet Union and many other states are pursuing a policy which has nothing in common with the irresponsible imperialist U.S. course, BARRICADA emphasizes.

Foreign Press on Incident

FM271418 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA "Press Service" report under the rubric "On a Topical Theme": "Mine Provocations and Overt Cynicism"]

[Text] On direct orders from the White House, the Pentagon is continuing to broaden the naval blockade of the Nicaraguan coast. At the beginning of March, counterrevolutionaries under the leadership of CIA instructors began mining Nicaraguan ports. We already know the results of that illegal and inhuman act. The Soviet Government described that grave crime as "an act of brigandage and piracy" by official American departments "under the control of the U.S. Administration."

What, then, has been the response on the banks of the Potomac? The State Department issued a cynical statement in connection with the USSR Government's note relating to the provocation concerning the tanker Lugansk. Representatives of the U.S. diplomatic department, it was said, had unhesitatingly warned countries trading with Nicaragua that "certain Nicaraguan ports have been mined." That is the American side's first "argument." The second "argument" rejecting the Soviet accusations is still more trenchant: "... the tension in the region is a result of the Soviet Union's kindling of conflict in Central America and the Caribbean, and so the Russians hardly have the right to make accusations against others regarding the outbreaks of violence in that region, which have become more frequent."

That is all the State Department has to say officially. Ships putting into Nicaraguan ports have notebooks for schoolchildren and oil for enterprises on board. But 30 American warships headed by the aircraft carrier America are armed with nuclear weapons and are cruising along the shores of Central America. Nicaragua offers peace and talks, while the United States allocates a further $20 million to counterrevolutionaries. And part of this money will go to acquire and lay sea mines to ensure that any merchant ship sailing to Nicaragua under a Panamanian, Venezuelan, or French flag will not bring -- who knows? -- another "portion of Soviet expansionism and interference" in its wake.

Broad circles of the world public and the mass media of many countries have taken an unequivocal stand on the incident with the Soviet tanker Lugansk, describing it as a grave crime by the United States and gangs of mercenaries and terrorists in its pay. A correspondent for the British newspaper THE TIMES, for example, writes: "An anti-Sandinist group of 'commandos' trained and equipped by the CIA is responsible for mining Nicaraguan ports..." Another London-published newspaper -- THE DAILY TELEGRAPH -- believes that the nature of the mining of the Nicaraguan coast leaves no doubt as to U.S. involvement in it. America's NEW YORK TIMES draws attention to the fact that "this incident has happened at a time when tension exists in East-West relations over a whole number of problems." Acts of piracy by Americans against peaceful ships, West Berlin's DIE WAHRHEIT writes, and the mining of a sovereign state's territorial waters pursue the aim of stifling the Sandinist revolution in the vise of a blockade.

CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY MANIFESTO BROADCAST

PY270220 Moscow in Spanish to Chile 2130 GMT 24 Mar 84

["Text" of manifesto released by the Central Committee of the Chilean Communist Party: "Democracy Now, Out With Pinochet," dated Santiago, March 1984 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Chilean men and women, we can and must put an end to starvation and abuse, oppression and injustice. New struggles are coming up that will be even harder than those of last year, which put a check on tyranny. The majority of the nation is determined to make the slogan, "Democracy now", thus putting an end to dictatorship come true as soon as possible.

It is the fervent desire of the people to throw Pinochet out as soon as possible. Some political sectors have expressed the same intention, and we Communists say that this goal can be achieved on the condition that all of us make an effort and encourage the struggle of the masses with determination and courage.

The fascist regime is the main cause of the evils that are affecting the country. The policy which the regime has applied and continues to apply, inspired and supported by U.S. imperialism and by domestic reaction, only makes the situation more serious. Therefore, the country in general is convinced that there is a political solution, and that it cannot be provided by Pinochet or his interior minister by means of their fake political openings. The political solution basically consists of the departure of the dictator and the end to the authoritarian regime, and its replacement with a provisional government as a first step toward the creation of a new democratic regime. Only the people can and should give that solution.

The spokesmen of the tyranny and the official propaganda are telling lies when they announce that we have entered into a stage of economic reactivation. There is not and there cannot be any real economic reactivation under the present regime which continues to be guided toward serving the interests of big capital, and of the international and domestic financial class at the expense of the unemployment and misery of millions of Chileans and the ruin of thousands of Chilean businessmen. There is not and there cannot be any real reactivation of the economy as long as the country has to pay 70 percent of the value of its exports, and much more next year, as amortization and interest of the large foreign debt contracted by the financial sharks and piranhas who have made fortunes through the policy of the "Chicago boys," [given in English] a policy that is defended and maintained by the tyrant.

There is not and there cannot be any economic reactivation under a dictatorship which has handed over to the government-sponsored private banks financial resources which several times surpass the value of their assets, and has given to the financial system, in general, credits amounting to more than its capital and reserves.

The spokesmen of the tyranny are also lying when they say that the symptons of economic recovery which are being observed in the big capitalist countries will be decisive for the presumed reactivation of activities in this country. Even if the economy of the United States and other capitalist nations were to improve, the favorable effects this would have for Chile would be late in coming and insignificant because of the protectionist measures which those countries adopt, to which are added the limited possibilities of foreign investments and credits, and the high interest rates reigning in the international financial market.

However, the main reason why there cannot be any real economic reactivation under the dictatorship lies in the fact that the crisis from which our country is suffering is not only a consequence of the recession which has affected capitalism throughout the world, but of a number of domestic factors which are still operating and which were created or aggravated by the fascist dictatorship. Some of those factors are: the systematic looting of the national wealth by imperialist banking; submission to the dictates of the transnational companies and the IMF; the position of privilege of the financial class; the vertical fall in the purchasing power of the masses; the limited domestic capacity for savings and investment, and, above all, the burden of the foreign debt.

Under Pinochet's regime, the country produces in order to pay the debts contracted by the Chilean bankers, money that was squandered or deposited in foreign banks. It is a main aim of the dictator to serve the creditors of the financial class, although this may mean that the economy is kept at rock bottom and people starve to death. Another main concern of the regime is to prop up private banking, even though wealth is squandered on this which might be at least partly spent on public works in order to lessen unemployment.

In contrast to that misery, there is a minority that has everything and is living in lavish luxury. The palaces of Barrio Alto and the mansions with four or more cars and several servants are the symbols of opulence of some few people. The bunker Pinochet ordered to be built for him in Lo Curro, at a cost of nearly $30 million, is a symbol of his madness for greatness and power; the money could have served to build thousands of homes for the people. The fact that two of the main representatives of the regime, Luders and Blanco, have gone to jail for embezzlement, is a symbol of the corruption of the regime.

Chile can get out of the hole in which fascism has sunk it only by applying a policy that is diametrically different from the one that has been practiced by the tyranny. To this end it is necessary that the forces standing for democracy and social progress should take power.

The Chilean people are ready to break the chains which weigh them down and condemn them to misery and hunger. All the opposition is in agreement that the dictator must go now, not in 1989. Pinochet is not the only one but he is the most responsible for all that has occurred in the country in the last 10 years, and he is the one most responsible for the fact that the policies which the country rejects are still being applied. Therefore, because he is the main obstacle to progress, because he has become a hindrance, the first thing to do is to remove him.

There is also a virtual consensus that the tyranny should be replaced with a provisional government. We believe that that government should be made up of all democratic forces. We also believe that the provisional government should be dynamic and enterprising in order to start up, from the first day, a plan for the reactivation of the economy of the nation; that is, suspend the payment of the foreign debt; fully restore public liberties; dissolve the CNI [National Intelligence Center] and the fascist armed groups; decide on the return of the exiles and the freedom of political prisoners and those in banishment; repeal the amnesty law which shelters those guilty of murders and disappearances; put Pinochet on trial along with those guilty of committing or planning the crimes that have been committed, and those responsible for the financial plans which mortgaged the country and who have billions of dollars abroad. The provisional government should also purge the fascist elements from the Armed Forces; remove and eradicate the national security doctrine; promote a new military concept at the service of democracy and the country; take measures to purge the judicial branch; repeal the labor plan and the fascist mining legislation which is favoring the foreign investor; put an end to the agreements with the IMF; nationalize the banks and the big enterprises which function thanks to state funds; request the reentry of Chile into the Andean Pact and the Non-aligned Movement; resume relations with all socialist countries, and put into practice a policy of close cooperation with neighboring governments and peoples, and of friendship with all nations for the good of social peace.

The serious situation in which the country will be left by the dictatorship makes it necessary for the provisional government to have an active and executive characteristic and it should from the beginning make efforts to restore democracy and economy in order to decisively and promptly eradicate unemployment, starvation, misery and fascism. If the provisional government were simply a transitional government it would lack authority and would inevitably show signs of weakness, of which the fascists and their collaborators would take advantage in an attempt to recover power in order to submerge the country in a period of political instability or, at least, to delay the democratic process.

In order to fulfill its role, the provisional government should make possible the broad support and participation on the part of the people in the realization of its tasks. It will have greater possibilities of success in executing its functions, if it can count on the support of all democratic forces and the new commanders of the Armed Forces.

The opposition of the center is in favor of a social pact for the period following the downfall of the dictatorship. We Communists might sign such a commitment, if a provisional government appears which does not hesitate to carry out its antifascist tasks and those of national reconstruction and if, at the same time, it does everything possible, even amid difficulties, to solve the serious unemployment problem and to improve the standard of living of the people. If those conditions are not at hand, and instead of a social pact of national consensus based on the common interest of the majority in the country, a pact would be proposed aimed at tying the hands of the working class to the advantage of the bourgeoisie, then the Communist Party would never sign it.

At the constituent assembly which the provisional government should convoke, we will struggle for the goal that the new constitution should proclaim and guarantee human rights, the right to work, housing, leisure time, health, and education. It must proscribe fascism and the practice of torture, establish various forms of ownership which in our opinion should be social, private, joint, or cooperative ownership, and that of workers' self-management.

It should recognize the multiparty system and determine the nature and the role of the Armed Forces, lay the bases of a new judicial branch and ensure that the new democratic regime is free from vice and corruption, facilitate the access of the people to the government of the state and their participation at all levels of power. It should have an open mind to the changes that may occur in the development of the society.

We will make and continue to make efforts toward the most advanced solution that will lead to the total eradication of fascism, establishment of a people's democratic state and the resumption, with all the modifications which experience and the new situation suggest, of the profound anti-imperialist and anti-oligarchic transformations leading to socialism for which Salvador Allende struggled and died.

Bringing these prospects to pass depends on a set of actors and on diverse civilian and military forces. Above all, it depends on the energy and scope of the movement, the participation and militancy of the masses in the upcoming demonstrations against the dictatorship, the immediate reinforcement of the workers' unity and struggle, the greater presence of the youth and women in the antifascist struggle, the development of a popular democratic movement, the reestablishment of unity in the left, agreement among all the opposition forces, in addition to the organizational, political and ideological strengthening of the party of Luis Emilio Recabarren, Elias Laserte and Pablo Neruda. Together we have to galvanize and mobilize all the forces shackled by the regime: workers and even capitalists whose enterprises have been gobbled up by financial plans or driven into bankruptcy by the invasion of foreign goods and the masses' weak buying power.

There should be no more deceptions or self-delusion, because any partial solution to assist the workers in one or another industry or service, or to assist groups such as merchants or truckers, or to assist farmers or small industrialists cannot be sufficent. Any partial solution will only be like a crumb, a piece of bread today and hunger tomorrow. This is an all-encompassing crisis, affecting Chile in its entirety, and so it has to have a comprehensive solution. Only the coordination of the struggle by all these social sectors can lead us to victory.

We march toward the national protest on 27 March. The idea of moving toward a nationwide stoppage of all activities to demand the departure of Pinochet and the immediate return to democracy has grown. From the hearts of the workers and the midst of the people.

This idea is mustering the growing support of the masses. It is espoused by the National Workers Command, and it is supported by all opposition forces and the entire country, including the working class, employees, professional, students, peasants, merchants, truckers, and medium and small farmers and industrialists. Should all of them halt their activities, a decisive step will have been taken in the struggle to end the dictatorship and to give real meaning to the slogan "Democracy no."

The idea of a nationwide stoppage opens encouraging prospects and rekindles the enthusiasm and hope of the people. This should establish a higher phase of the struggle against the dictatorship, culminating in a host of small and large actions by the masses. A sense of energy and urgency has to be instilled in the preparation of the stoppage. All labor, professional, and business organizations must consider and approve the strike of the sake of its prompt implementation.

The idea of the nationwide stoppage gives jitters to the interior minister who has already adopted all kinds of measures to abort it or to minimize its effects. The dictatorship is maneuvering to entice some labor and business association leaders into a conciliation process, and it is focusing it work to divide the Copper Workers Confederation.

The prosecution and imprisonment of the president of the Popular Democratic Movement, Dr Manuel Almeida, and of the national president of the oil workers, Ruiz Di Giorgio, together with 15 other colleagues who participated in the heroic protest against Pinochet's visit to Punta Arena, and the attacks against the Catholic Church prove that the dictatorship is determined to defend its positions by attacking everybody. The dictatorship can at any time attempt to behead the labor organization, and so measures have to be adopted to escape persecution and blows from the repressive forces. In opposition to the regime there are groups of persons, who along with sectors of the right somewhat removed from the dictatorship, propose ties and compromises with the tyrant and his clique. Through a policy of accommodation, they want to keep things as they are, only changing civilians for military men; replacing one government team with another. With a reshuffle the hopes and rights of people will just be mocked. We reject this.

There are also parties in the opposition which only accept and believe in a peaceful solution, a civilized solution as some of them say. Should this be a possibility of a real solution, without making compromises with the tyrant and his clique, we would espouse it. But we have the obligation to say that we do not see any possibility for this civilized outcome, because the fascist dictatorship is a barbarous and cruel regime based on terror and violence. Last year, it did not hesitate to bring 18,000 soldiers into the streets with orders to fire at the people; and this year, it is determined to do anything, everything, to commit crimes and massacres rather than withdraw from the positions it defends. The fascism does not leave nor will it leave any alternative other than the head-on, open struggle against it, mobilizing all the social and political sectors which support democracy, coordinating the action of all opposition forces, resorting to all forms of struggle whether peaceful or violent depending on concrete conditions.

We Communists, true to our revolutionary character, do not renounce armed insurrection. But we clearly state that this is not the order of the day. The order of the day now is exercising the right of rebellion by the Chilean people, using all means at their disposal. This is the policy we have been proposing and that is gaining acceptance among the masses. Ahead lie difficult struggles that must be confronted. Skipping the struggles might be comfortable for some people, but the men and women who have assumed some responsibility in Chilean affairs must be willing to make any sacrifice. The only possibility of containing, at least partially, the fascist barbarism and of lessening the fierceness of future confrontations lies in the mobilization of the masses and an agreement among the opposition forces. In these circumstances, the Armed Forces might be persuaded not to remain blind and deaf and to shift to democratic positions. If the various groups into which the Chilean right is now divided, having supported the regime for a decade, take some distance from the regime, we can logically think that the Armed Forces may also consider that the time has come not to continue bearing the burden of the regime's discredit and being accomplices in new abuses.

We Communists favor a rapprochement of the Armed Forces and the people once the military institutions undergo essential reforms. We do not incite confrontations between civilians and the military, nor do we want to separate the latter from all the activities of state or their subordination to any civil power other than the democratically instituted power.

The Communist Party addresses the Chilean people with the profound conviction that these ideas reflect the sentiment of the people who will thus find ways to implement them within the context of a struggle giving no quarter in defense of their vital interests against the fascist dictatorship.

Chilean youth, let all the rebelliousness of your spirit be expressed in the struggle against the fascist regime which provides no opportunity for employment and education, thus thwarting your best hopes.

Chilean women, mothers, sisters and daughters, do not fail to make your contribution so that the slogans "Democracy now" and "Today not tomorrow" can have real meaning, and join your hearts in the struggle against a regime that is the antithesis of life and that brought upon you the pain resulting from unemployment, hunger, imprisonment, exile, murder, disappearances and torture.

Urban and rural workers, tackle with determination the struggle for the satisfaction of your needs, and step up your actions so that the nationwide stoppage of all activities may result in the most vigorous demonstration of repudiation of the dictatorship; you are the engine of the nation; if you act resolutely in unity, nobody will resist you.

Only unity and struggle will assure us victory. Long live the joint action of the urban and rural workers. Long live the coordinated struggle of all social and political sectors which oppose dictatorship. Long live the Communist democratic movement. Down with fascism.

Long live the Communist Party. "Democracy now."

With reason and force on our side, we shall win.

[Signed] Central Committee of the PCCh.
Santiago, March 1984.

GORBACHEV AGRO-INDUSTRY SPEECH REPORTED

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[TASS report on 26 March speech by M.S. Gorbachev at the All-Union Economic Conference on Problems of the Agro-Industrial Complex: "Reserves in the Agrarian Economy"]

[Text] A report "On the Tasks of Party, Soviet, and Economic Organs in Increasing the Economic Efficiency of Agriculture and Other Sectors of the Agro-Industrial Complex" was delivered by M.S. Gorbachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who was greeted warmly by those present.

The present conference, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said at its opening, has been convened by decision of the CPSU Central Committee to discuss the initial results of work to fulfill the Food Program. His speech sets forth the essence of the tasks facing party organizations and workers in the agro-industrial complex and contains clear instructions on the main directions of their activity.

Our economy is at a crucial stage in its development, the speaker continued. Behind us are 3 years of intensive work to implement the 26th CPSU Congress decisions. We have entered the final stage of the 11th 5-Year Plan, with its highly complex and crucial tasks. In all its activity the party is firmly guided by the strategic directives of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums. It has a sufficiently integral program of action for resolving both current and long-term tasks.

The scale of this work was expressed profoundly and comprehensively in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speeches at the February Plenum and at the meeting with voters. The speeches clearly define the tasks and ways of further developing the economy and increasing the people's well-being, on which the attention of the party, state and economic organs, and all working people must be focused. It is necessary to make economic leadership work more dynamic and purposeful, to consolidate and augment all that is new and advanced, to do everything to develop the masses' creativity and initiative, and to scientific order, discipline, and organization.

The sphere of the economy has always been and still is central to the party's activity. The CPSU Central Committee and the government have recently adopted a series of important decisions aimed at increasing the efficiency of the national economy, accelerating scienctific and technical progress, and improving the economic machinery.

Life requires enhanced attention toward intensification. Of course, the transition to primarily intensive factors of economic growth and to new management methods is no simple matter. The desire alone is not enough. What is needed is consistent activity by party, state, and economic organs and all our cadres. But we can and must do this. The country has skilled cadres and the necessary resources. We also have our main reserve -- the support of the broad masses and their desire to participate actively in the resolution of the problems which face society. Acting in all salients and developing the labor collectives' initiative and creativity, our country will be able to substantially increase production efficiency.

It is important to intensify the whole sphere of the economy, and in particular those sectors on whose development the resolution of socioeconomic problems largely depends. Such sectors today are agriculture and the entire agro-industrial complex, which is oriented toward the fulfillment of the country's Food Program approved by the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

It is about 2 years since the May plenum of the Central Committee. Some preliminary results of the work done during that time can be summed up today. Gross agricultural output in 1983 increased 5 percent compared with 1982, reaching nearly R134 billion. In the RSFSR the growth was 6 percent, in Kazakhstan it was 11 percent, in Kirghizia 10 percent, in Belorussia and Estonia 9 percent, in Latvia 7 percent, and in Lithuania 6 percent.

For the first time in 9 years, all the republics coped with plans for procurements of the main types of livestock products. The increase over the year was, for meat, 1.5 million metric tons live weight, for milk 5.4 million metric tons, and for eggs 1.8 billion eggs. These successes had a positive effect on the work of processing sectors. Meat and dairy industry enterprises produced above-plan output worth R1.4 billion. Food industry workers and workers in a number of other sectors of the agro-industrial complex worked quite well.

Economic indicators of kolkhozes' and sovkhozes' activity have also begun to change for the better. The overall level of profitability reached 21 percent. Not counting the increase in purchase prices and supplements, profits increased by R7.4 billion in 1983. In all, they totaled R23.3 billion. The economy of many of the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes is strengthening markedly. The rate of social transformations in the countryside has been accelerated. The scale of construction of housing and cultural, consumer, health care, and public education facilities has grown.

Encouraging shifts are taking place in the agrarian sector. Despite this, the overall situation cannot be regarded as satisfactory. In the first 3 years of the 5-year plan agriculture failed to supply the state with a considerable quantity of grain, livestock, poultry, milk, and other produce against the plan targets.

M.S. Gorbachev analyzed in detail the course of fulfillment of the Food Program by republics, krays, and oblasts. The production of output is increasing only slowly in a number of krays and oblasts of the RSFSR. For instance, the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Altay Kray, despite increasing resources, have reduced their production and procurement of grain and other types of produce during this 5-year plan.

Not infrequently, oblasts which have similar natural, climatic, and economic conditions nevertheless work in different ways and have far from identical results. The people of Volgograd and Rostov Oblasts are working less well than in the 10th 5-Year Plan, lagging behind their neighbors. In Yaroslavl Oblast indicators are significantly lower than in Vladimir Oblast. A serious underfulfillment of plans has been allowed to occur for several types of output in Ivanovo and Perm Oblasts and in Udmurtia.

The 3-year results proved lower than those planned on many kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and certain other republics. The most serious conclusions must be drawn from this, so as to eliminate the laggardness as far as possible during the remaining 2 years of the 5-year plan.

First and foremost it is important to implement a system of measures to ensure the growth of grain production and the unconditional fulfillment of the targets set for the sale of grain to the state by every farm and rayon, every oblast and republic, and not only in terms of the total volume, but for each crop. It is necessary this year to decisively rectify the state of affairs as regards the production of high quality food wheat of strong and durum varieties.

Crucial tasks face livestock unit workers. It is important to consolidate and further develop the positive shifts which have emerged in livestock raising. The conditions exist for this. More food has been laid in than last season and the farms are being helped with concentrates. But whereas in most republics, krays, and oblasts production and procurement of livestock units' output are showing a substantial increase on last year's level, in Chelyabinsk, Kirov, Kashka-Darya, and Bukhara Oblasts milk procurements have fallen. Purchases of livestock and poultry have fallen in Uzbekistan and in Orenburg, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Zaporozhye, and Poltava Oblasts. It is necessary to examine the concrete factors which have led to this situation, and to remedy it without delay.

Analyzing key issues of strengthening the economy of the agro-industrial complex, the speaker stressed that the intensification process cannot be reduced to the mere accumulation of funds. In intensification, the main thing is to increase the output per unit of material and financial resources available already or newly provided.

A vast production potential has been accumulated today in agriculture and in other sectors of the agro-industrial complex. The priority task is to improve the utilization of all capacities and resources, strengthen weak links, make optimum use of available funds, and improve their structure.

The speaker devoted particular attention to the development of agricultural machine building, to fully supplying kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other enterprises in the agro-industrial complex with the full range of high productivity machines of the new generation, and to strengthening the base for repairs and storage of machinery in the countryside.

Since the May plenum, the Central Committee and the government have allocated major capital investments to the development of the agricultural machine building sectors and have brought the country's main construction and machine building ministries in to help resolve the task. The center of gravity must now be shifted to organizing the fulfillment of the measures planned. Certain positive developments are already in evidence, but there are also anomalies: The Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building and the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production have failed to assimilate production of a number of models of new machinery. The output of sets of machines for use with high-powered tractors is increasing only slowly. As yet there have been no substantial changes in the work of construction ministries on agricultural machine building projects. This approach on the part of ministries, departments, and local party committees toward the fulfillment of Central Committee and government resolutions is absolutely unacceptable.

The standard of economic management, it was noted in the speech, depends largely on the skillful use of the main means of production -- the land. Certain shifts have recently been observed in this respect, but by no means everything has been done. On many kolkhozes and sovkhozes scientifically substantiated arable farming systems are being introduced only slowly and agricultural techniques are violated. Crop rotations have yet to be adopted on a significant proportion of farms. Yet without them there can be no question of a strictly scientific arable farming system. The agronomic service and scientific network of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture is not yet exerting the necessary influence on the standard of arable farming.

Great attention must be devoted to the use of irrigated and drained land. The area of reclaimed land occupies 33 million hectares. The country receives one-third of its arable produce from this land, including all its cotton and rice, three-fourths of the vegetables, half the fruit and grapes, and a considerable amount of feed. But reclaimed land is not used efficiently enough.

In recent years resources have been channeled primarily into new land reclamation construction work. Meanwhile insufficient resources are assigned to modernizing existing systems and maintaining them properly. Here the narrow departmental stand of the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources has some effect. Its organizations willingly set about costly projects and often avoid carrying out amelioration work or modernizing systems. There are also other problems which must be resolved more rapidly.

The report devoted considerable time to problems of the intensification of livestock raising. This sector's productivity is still not high, many farms do not devote due attention to strengthening the feed base and get carried away building large-scale complexes. Yet experience shows that merely by increasing the productivity of livestock and poultry you can rapidly increase the output of meat, milk, and eggs, and the efficiency of livestock raising in general. There must also be unremitting attention toward the development of enterprises' and citizens' subsidiary plots.

M.S. Gorbachev went on to say: The party is working hard to improve the management of the economic machinery in the agro-industrial complex sectors. The measures that have been adopted have created a generally favorable economic situation. Management is increasingly coming to be based on economic levers for influencing production. But this is only the start of the restructuring process.

Some management organs and leading cadres continue to make inadequate use of economic methods of management. They often lose sight of such questions as the correct correlation between labor productivity, growth of wages, recouping of investments, the utilization of funds, output quality and the part these factors play in strengthening the economy.

Some leaders and specialists are rather afraid of financial autonomy and are in no hurry to introduce it. In many cases financial autonomy is practiced in a formal manner, its basic principles are violated and some farms want the state and bank credits to pay most of their expenses.

The conditions have now been created in the countryside whereby every kolkhoz and sovkhoz has the opportunity to increase output, earn money, increase profitability, and cut expenditure. It is important to use the state's assistance skillfully and to the maximum advantage, especially the purchase price markups for farms that are lagging behind. To bring about a situation where these farms are paying their way and to ensure that they fulfill their plans is a very important task for agro-industrial associations and party and soviet organs. Financial autonomy also implies a more rational and valid distribution of income.

The efficient use of the countryside's potential depends primarily on people, on their labor and commitment to results. It is important to organize the matter in such a way that people have a clear view of the ultimate goal, strive after it, and can sense the direct interdependence of labor and pay. Long research has shown that the collective contract is highly effective. It is important to continue to pay close attention to it and to make more vigorous use of it in practice.

Agro-industrial associations have been operating in the country for more than a year. A considerable number of the rayon agro-industrial associations have been focusing attention on the basic problems of the economy and arranging intersectoral ties. But by no means all the associations have acquired a sufficiently clear grasp of the essential point of the reorganization, of the rights and opportunities of the new organs. Many agro-industrial associations lack initiative and practical efficiency. The rayon agro-industrial associations have the power to do the work efficiently.

The report highlighted the question of kolkhozes' and sovkhozes' relationships with partners. Rural workers still have many criticisms of the quality of partners' work and the high cost of services. Often the products that are received are substandard, over-reporting takes place, and occasionally farms miscalculate. The leaders of union and republic ministries and departments and local, party, soviet and economic organs must eradicate all these irregular phenomena.

More attention should be paid to the development of the processing industry and to storage and transportation facilities. We are still dragging our feet badly in this area, the speaker said. While investing large sums in increasing the production of grain, vegetables, cotton, milk, we often lose products because of tardy processing, poor storage, and a lack of packaging materials. When elaborating the plans for the 12th 5-Year Plan it is important to envisage additional measures to ensure the balanced development of agriculture and processing.

Relying on the best experience, it is necessary to continue adjusting the economic machinery and management of agriculture and the other sectors of the agro-industrial complex as a whole. It is necessary to continue looking for new forms and methods of management in the sphere of the agro-industrial complex. Gosplan, the Ministry of Finance, Gosbank, the State Committee on Prices, and the State Committee for Labor and Social Problems should be doing this important work in conjuction with the ministries of the agro-industrial complex.

M.S. Gorbachev then said that in the new management conditions, where intensification and the accelerated introduction of the achievements of scientific and technical progress into production are acquiring decisive significance, the scientific research organizations of the USSR Academy of Sciences and V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VASKHNIL) have a bigger role and responsibility. In recent years a number of institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences have begun to place considerable emphasis on the agrarian sector's problems. But life is expecting more and more of science. And we have every right to expect scientists to use their creative potential to accelerate the development of agriculture and implement the Food Program.

Agricultural science subunits and VASKHNIL institutes are also urged to step up their efforts. There are still many shortcomings and much passivity in their activity and aid to production is inadequate. The practical sphere needs studies of such major problems as the improvement of planning, intensification, specialization and concentration, the siting of agro-industrial production, the rational utilization of production potential, and the social development of the countryside. Special attention must be paid to improving the entire agro-industrial complex management machinery.

The speaker then dwelled on the tasks of party, soviet, and economic organs. The speeches by Comrade K.U. Chernenko at the February plenum and at the meeting with workers of the Central Committee apparatus, he said, stressed in particular that the solution of the tasks facing the country directly depends on improving the standard of party leadership. This fully applies to the implementation of the Food Program. Life is making bigger and bigger demands, above all on primary party organizations which constitute the political nucleus of rural labor collectives. The degree of exploitation of the possibilities created for the countryside by the decisions of the party and government largely depends on their activeness and initiative.

We must put into practice the CPSU Central Committee guideline on delineating more clearly the functions of party and soviet organs. An abnormal situation arises when some raykoms are taking the place of agro-industrial associations, when they solve current economic questions, disregarding them in the process, and when they interfere in matters that are supposed to be handled by specialists and leaders of farms, which diminishes cadres' responsibility for their jobs.

It should be the basic duty of raykoms not to tell rural workers what to do and when to do it, but to work systematically on enhancing cadres' responsibility for their jobs and for the end results of production. For party committees, the Central Committee points out, economic work means primarily working with people, with cadres. This formula must be imbued with specific content and must be unswervingly followed as an important party principle.

Analyzing work with agricultural cadres and cadres at enterprises and organizations in the agro-industrial complex, the speaker noted in particular the need to have politically mature, competent, and able people in all decisive areas, people with organzing abilities and a feeling for the new. They should be helped to master effective work methods and to overcome inertia and attachment to old ways. More is expected of cadres in the mass professions. A thorough improvement is needed in the vocational and economic training of machine operators, field-crop growers, livestock raising workers, construction workers, and workers in the food industry.

Like economic questions, cadre questions are linked to the social restructuring of the countryside. Since the May plerum the rate of housing, cultural, and consumer construction has increased in many oblasts and republics. At the same time, there are oblasts, krays, and republics which regularly fail to fulfill plans for nonproduction construction. There is a big lag in the work of the USSR Ministry of Rural Construction, and the USSR Ministries of Construction, Industrial Construction, and Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises are not participating properly in rural construction. Everywhere it is necessary to ensure the full implementation of the construction program for the countryside and to continue to focus attention on cooperative and individual housing construction.

The CPSU Central Committee assesses the work of leaders of all ranks not by their words, but by their actions, the speaker noted. This is having an effect on responsibility and executive discipline. Yet the burden of old habits can still be felt. Time is passing, but not all the plans are being realized. Certain people are confining themselves to initial measures: They have examined them at the collegium, given orders, drawn up instructions, discussed them at the bureau meeting, and approved the measures. This practice will no longer do.

The improvement of the work style and methods of party and soviet organs in the countryside is not an aim in itself, but a means of combining more completely the party's economic policy with the creative initiative and energy of the working people and their participation in widespread socialist compeition for the implementation of the Food Program.

In conclusion, M.S. Gorbachev, on behalf of the party Central Committee, expressed firm confidence that party committees, soviet organs, ministries and departments, agricultural scientists, and leaders and specialists of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and enterprises in other sectors of the agro-industrial complex will increase their efforts to fulfill the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the USSR Food Program. There is no doubt that the rural working people will succeed in fulfilling the plans and socialist pledges for 1984 and thus make a fitting contribution to the solution of the main task -- the further improvement of the Soviet people's well-being.

The conference participants contributing to the debate are discussing ways of increasing agricultural production intensification and are making concrete proposals aimed at ensuring the fulfillment of the USSR Food Program.

The all-union economic conference will continue on 27 March.

TIKHONOV BOOK ON SOVIET ECONOMY REVIEWED

PM271004 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 84 First Edition p 2

[Editorial article: "Stride of the Soviet Economy"]

[Text] The 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent Central Committee plenums concretized the party's long-term economic strategy for the period of the 11th 5-Year Plan and the eighties as a whole. The party's policy is aimed at making fuller use of the advantages of developed socialism for further improving the Soviet people's life and comprehensively revealing the humane essence and tremendous creative potential of our socialist system.

During the years since the 26th CPSU Congress there has been a substantial increase in the country's economic, scientific, and technical potential, its defense might has strengthened, and the people's well-being has been enhanced.

Last year's results were particularly remarkable. Industry developed confidently, matters began to be rectified in transportation, and the positive changes in agriculture and in realizing the USSR Food Program were tangible. The growth rate for the chief indicator of economic efficiency -- labor productivity -- exceeded the average annual indicators for the previous 5-year plan and the first 2 years of the present one.

Our achievements are the result of the purposeful activity of the party and the Soviet state in making fuller use of the potential of the economy of developed socialism. This multifaceted work is revealed profoundly and comprehensively in the recently published book by Nikolay Aleksandrovich Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. (Footnote) (N.A. Tikhonov. "The Soviet Economy: Achievements, Problems, Prospects" ["Sovetskaya Ekonomika: Dostizheniya, Problemy, Perspektivy"], Moscow, APN, 1984, 240 pages) Addressed to both the Soviet and the foreign reader, it shows the incontestable advantages of the socialist system of management and its ability to resolve very complex economic and social problems and give a worthy response to any challenge.

The book describes the main stages in the development of the USSR's national economy, its present state, and the immediate future. The author examines many problems in a broad international context and links them closely with the country's foreign policy and interstate relations.

Much has been done over the years of building the new society. But we have not grown accustomed to resting content with what has been achieved. "We can and want to make more rapid progress," Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pointed out. "We can and must resolve problems of the economy's intensive development far more energetically. For only on this basis is the increasingly full satisfaction of the people's material and spiritual needs feasible." It is necessary to accelerate the intensification of production, to raise production forces to a qualitatively new level, and singularly enhance social labor productivity.

This long-term orientation of the party's economic policy, to use V.I. Lenin's words, embodies "the general plan of our work, of our policy, our tactic, our strategy..." (Vol 45, p 405). In terms of its historic scale, significance, and consequences the transfer of the economy to the path of intensive development can rightly be equated with such very profound transformations as socialist industrialization, which radically altered the country's complexion.

To resolve these tasks, as the author shows, it is necessary, above all, to make more efficient use of the tremendous production potential. The fuller loading of existing capacities, a more resolute struggle against all losses, the thriftier use of worktime -- this is what must be sought in any sector, at any enterprise and workplace. The enhancement of the work efficiency of enterprises in all sectors of the national economy is a tremendous reserve.

One of the key directions in the intensification of social production is the saving of raw materials and fuel and energy resources and the reduction of their expenditure per unit of national economic end result. Thus, the planned increase in national income this year must be secured while reducing materials-intensiveness by 2.5 percent and energy-intensiveness by 1.5 percent. The saving of resources is assuming the role of the leading element in enhancing the efficiency of our economy. The growth of production volume, thanks to the improved utilization of raw materials, supplies, fuel and energy, is today both the most advantageous and sometimes even the only possible way. But it is also a question of something else: We must show concern for the country's future and for the generations that will take our place.

Progressive equipment and technology helps to make rational use of natural riches. Much can be provided by improving the structure of production and of the consumption of fuel and energy resources. But it is particularly important to develop still more widely the mass movement for a policy of thrift at every enterprise and every workplace.

What is needed for the cardinal improvement of labor productivity and the economy's consistent transfer to the path of intensive development is the accelerated introduction of the achievements of science and technology and the rapid and continuous updating of all the sectors of the national economy on this basis. The author draws attention to the need to substantially raise the technical standard of machine building. Only on this basis can progressive scientific and technical ideas be embodied in new generations of machinery and equipment. While implementing the achievements of scientific and technical progress, the book points out, we must, of course, think also about "the problems which our country will encounter on the threshold of the 21st century. We must foresee these problems right now, in order to seek ways to overcome them" (p 72).

Production automation, the mass use of computers and robots, the introduction of flexible production systems, the development of nuclear power generation and biotechnology, the broader introduction of waste-free and energy-saving technologies, and comprehensive mechanization leading to a reduction in manual labor -- these are preconditions for making fuller use of the creative potential of our chief production force -- man.

The improvement of planning and of the whole system of national economic management is an important condition for intensifying the economy. As was pointed out at the CPSU Central Committee Extraordinary February (1984) Plenum, the economic machinery needs serious reorganization.

The book shows the main directions of this work, which has recently been stepped up appreciably. The powerful economic levers of planned management include autonomous financing and increasingly sophisticated forms of earnings and material incentives. The responsibility of ministries, departments, and enterprises for the observance of contractual pledges and for the reduction of output prime costs is being enhanced. The current large-scale economic experiments will make it possible to find new ways to broaden the economic independence of enterprises and associations and to enhance their responsibility for the end results of work. The creation of the most rational organizational structures of management in agriculture, construction, and other sectors is continuing.

"Efficient socialist management," N.A. Tikhonov points out, "is inconceivable without reliance on the collective, without maximum activeness on the part of the collective owner of the means of production -- the working people" (p 141). One of the chief features of the party's socioeconomic strategy at the stage of developed socialism is the strengthening of its orientation toward improving the socialist way of life, strengthening its labor character, and increasingly fully embodying the basic principle of socialism: "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his labor."

The party's policy of combining the advantages of socialism with the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution, its specific measures to intensify and improve production, the enhancement of organization, the strengthening of state, labor, and plan discipline, and the enhancement of people's constructive, creative activeness enjoy the full support of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, and the intelligentsia. The resolution of the urgent and long-term economic tasks outlined by the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums is the nucleus of the work of all party organizations, soviet and economic organs, and labor collectives.

N.A. Tikhonov's book shows vividly and convincingly that the realization of the socioeconomic policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state is the vital cause of all Soviet people. They know that the party's efforts in the economy are aimed in the final analysis at enhancing the people's living standards, at the good of every person, and at strengthening peace on the planet.

ALIYEV, OTHERS ADDRESS POLITBURO COMMISSION

LD241735 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The latest session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission for the management and supervision of drafting a comprehensive program for the development of production of consumer goods and of the network of services to the population for 1986-2000 was held on 23 March. The meeting was chaired by Comrade Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The session examined questions connected with the progress of the drafting of the program. A report on this was delivered by Comrades Lakhtin and Sitaryan, deputy chairmen of the USSR State Planning Committee. The commission drew attention to the need to make the planned volume of production of goods and services more precise, bearing in mind the fullest coverage of the population's increasing requirements and money incomes. Measures were discussed for increasing the output of articles in mass demand and for considerably expanding all types of services. It was recommended to increase the share of participation in that work and to raise the responsibility of all ministries and departments, associations, enterprises and organizations, irrespective of their departmental affiliation.

The session was addressed by Comrade Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and Comrades Kapitonov and Ryzhov, secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrade Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU; Comrade Mishin, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; ministers; departmental chiefs; deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the union republics; and senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, took part in the proceedings.

AZERBAIJAN CP PLENUM PROCEEDINGS REPORTED

PM260914 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report on Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] A regular plenum of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee took place 14 March. The plenum discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Extraordinary Plenum and the republic party organization's tasks stemming from the provisions and conclusions contained in the speeches by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the plenum and at the meeting with voters of Moscow's Kuybyshevskiy Electoral Okrug.

A report was delivered by Comrade K.M. Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee.

The following spoke during the debate on the report: F.E. Musayev, first secretary of the Baku Gorkom; N.E. Mustafayev, first secretary of the Nakhichevan Obkom; V.A. Bogoslovskiy, second secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Obkom; Sh.M. Aliyev, first secretary of the Sumgait Obkom; I.A. Golovina, operator at the Artemneftegaz petroleum and gas extracting administration; I.B. Kuliyev, chairman of the Kirovabad Gorispolkom; T.Kh. Orudzhev, Azerbaijan SSR minister of fruit and vegetable industry; G.G. Glushkov, editor of the newspaper VYSHKA; Z.A. Mamedov, first secretary of the Kubatlinskiy Raykom; Sh.M. Rzayev, team leader at Agdzhabedinskiy Rayon's Tajikistan kolkhoz; A. Yu. Mamedov, Azerbaijan SSR minister of consumer services; A.T. Zamanov, Azerbaijan SSR minister of consumer services; A.T. Zamanov, Azerbaijan SSR prosecutor; M.G. Askerov, Azerbaijan SSR minister of agriculture; and G.A. Aliyev, director of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences Geography Institute.

A resolution on the question discussed was adopted. Comrade K.M. Bagirov delivered a closing speech.

The Plenum examined an organization question. Comrade A.S. Denisov was elected member of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE IN LITHUANIAN PUBLISHED

LD272045 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1004 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Vilnius, 27 Mar (TASS) -- The publication of a liturgical prayer book is nearing completion in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania (Soviet Pribaltika region). Its press run will exceed 160,000 copies.

Recently, on the eve of the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the death of Saint Kazimir, the patron of Lithuania, the believers and devotees of the Catholic Church received a booklet containing a religious diary, commemorative postcards with Saint Kazimir's lithograph and also a liturgical reference-book. Incidentally, this latter publication has been printed over the past 4 years in state printing houses for use in services.

Religious literature, both for the clergy and the believers, is regularly published in Lithuania. Three volumes of the missal in the Lithuanian language have already been published and this has made it possible, since 1983, to conduct divine services in the national language. In all it will have 10 volumes, on which a large group of translators and priests is currently working.

A catechism entitled "The Light of Our Faith," which makes it possible to prepare children for the communion in the national language, has also been published in Lithuania. Prior to this, the catechism was published only in 1932 and 1940.

The publication of the New Testament of the Holy Scripture, last published in Lithuania at the beginning of the twenties, has become a major event in the life of Lithuania's Catholic community. The new publication, containing some 600 pages, was prepared by a collegium of Lithuanian bishops.

All religious literature published in Lithuania can be ordered by Lithuanian Catholics residing in other countries.

TAJIKISTAN SEMINAR ON ATHEISM BEGINS 26 MAR

GF261832 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The seminar of atheistic lecturers and organizers of atheistic work began at the political education house of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee in Dushanbe today. It is conducted at the initiative of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee and the administration of the republic's "Znaniye" [knowledge] society.

Participating in the seminar are party, soviet and trade union workers, scientists, teachers of the social sciences departments in the higher educational institutions, "Znaniye" activists and workers of the mass information and propaganda media.

Comrade Bobosadykova, secretary of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee, presented a report on the urgent questions of the ideologidal work of the party in light of the decisions of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. The participants in the seminar heard a number of lectures presented by officials of the Scientific Atheism Institute of the CPSU Central Committee's Academy of Social Sciences and by the scientists of Tajikistan on religion and struggle against [word indistinct] in the contemporary world and socialist style of life, the (?objective) basis of the formation of the scientific atheistic pointed of view, the organization of atheistic work with [word indistinct] population and others. [Words indistinct] of the antireligious propaganda is the full responsibility of the party and soviet workers, [word indistinct] and cultural workers.

During the seminar, the scientists will meet with writers and cinema workers. The organizers of atheistic work will exchange experience. The seminar will continue for 3 days.

TV COVERAGE OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

LD261314 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Television in Russian at 1130 GMT on 26 March carries a report on the Great Kremlin Palace All-Union Conference on the Problems of the Agro-industrial Complex. Chernenko's recorded address is carried; a comparison with the announcer-read version from Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1000 GMT on 26 March, which was published in this DAILY REPORT on 26 March, page R 1, reveals the two versions to be identical.

Introductory video information is missed for the first minute. Video then shows close-ups of Chernenko and those in his immediate vicinity, with distant shots of the presidium. Those seated on the platform are as follows, reading from left to right, in rows:

Front row: Two unidentified persons, empty seat, Gorbachev (center), Chernenko, Ryzhkov, Ligachev, two unidentified persons;

Second row: Empty seat, Ustinov, Gromyko, empty seats;

Third row: Rusakov, two empty seats, Vorotnikov, Aliyev, (Baybakov), Dymshits, two unidentified persons, Talyzin;

Back row: Kapitonov, Dolgikh, Kuznetsov, Chebrikov, Zimyanin, five unidentifed persons.

Announcement of those present is the same as rendered in referent item.

Video briefly shows Gorbachev and other unnamed speakers, but their speeches are not heard

COMPARISON OF CPSU POLITBURO SESSION REPORT

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 24 February carries in its First Edition on the front page an unattributed report entitled, "In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo." This has been compared to the Vremya newscast published in this DAILY REPORT of 23 February, with the following variations noted:

First paragraph, line two, third paragraph, lines one and three, fourth paragraph, last line, PRAVDA has "CPSU Central Committee Draft" instead of "CPSU Draft";

Sixth paragraph, line one, PRAVDA reads "Central Committee Politburo session," adding "session"'

Eighth paragraph, line one, PRAVDA calls Chernenko "Comrade" and reduces his first name to initials.

Twelfth paragraph, line two, PRAVDA reads "member of the Politburo of the Algerian National", adding "Politburo of the."

BRIEFS

UZBEK RESERVOIR -- Work has begun to repair the extraordinary Kuyu-Mazar reservoir in Bukhara Oblast in Uzbekistan. The Kuyu-Mazar reservoir has been contributing to the economy for 30 years. A decision has been taken to raise the capacity of the reservoir to 20 million cubic meters. This will impreove the irrigation of about 13,000 hectares of cultivated land. As in other parts of the Soviet Union, land reclamation work and construction of irrigation installations is financed through state funds. The farmers are benefitting from all this free of charge. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84 GF]

ARMENIA'S ECONOMY DEVELOPING 'DYNAMICALLY'

LD271426 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Yerevan March 27 TASS -- The rates of Armenia's economic growth in recent years have topped the average indicator for the Soviet Union, a TASS correspondent was told in interview by Grant Sagoyan, chairman of the State Planning Committee of that Transcaucasian republic. During the first months of this year, it has been developing particularly dynamically. The volume of industrial output has grown 9.4 percent, which is considerably higher than the target figure.

At the present time, Grant Sagoyan said, Armenia's industry puts out more products a day, than prior to the establishment of Soviet power it put out over a year. Such spectacular results have been achieved with the assistance of all peoples of the USSR, in the first place of the Russian people. In 1922, when the republic wiped out counter-revolution, it started a campaign for economic recovery, cargo trains carrying metals, cement, pipes, timber, clothing and foods were sent to Armenia from Russia and the Ukraine. It is due to the fraternal assistance that mills and factories, which marked the start of new industries, have been built here. The whole Soviet land helped build chemical and mechnical engineering works in Yerevan and Kirovokan, big hydro-power and thermal-power stations, at last the Armenian nuclear power station. Representatives of more than twenty peoples of the USSR are participating today in the construction of the Idzhevan-Rasdan railway main, which is important for the development of the north eastern region of the republic.

Speaking on Armenia's place in the system of integration between the Soviet Union republics, Grant Sagoyan pointed out that its requests are fulfilled by thousands of Soviet mills and factories. In its turn, the republic supplies products to all of the Soviet Union's economic areas. Its products are exported to more than 70 countries.

A considerable growth of the economic potential will also be ensured in the current five year plan period (1981-1985). It is planned to increase the volume of industrial output by 30 percent. The trend of top priority development of the products meeting the demand of the population is continuing. The increase in the volume of output is achieved mainly through a modernisation of mills and factories.

Touching upon the prospects for the development of Armenia's national economy the chairman of the State Planning Committee stressed that the steady development of industry, agriculture, science and technology create prerequisites for a growth of national income. The real per capita income will grow almost 16 percent over the current five year plan period. Apart from it, each family will get nearly 2,000 roubles from the public consumption funds in pensions, grants to students, state subsidies for kindergartens and public utilities, accomodation at rest homes, free education and medical attendence.

NON-CHERNOZEM ZONE DEVELOPMENT, TASKS SURVEYED

PM260902 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 84 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Horizons of the Non-Chernozem Zone"]

[Text] The non-Chernozem Zone is the name given to an ancient area of Russia. Its fields have been fruitful and have fed people for many centuries. This land is becoming increasingly beautiful and great changes are taking place on it. Exactly 10 years ago the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures to Further Develop the Agriculture of the RSFSR's Non-Chernozem Zone" was adopted. It gave a powerful new boost to the renewal of the area and the strengthening of production forces. More opportunities for comprehensively resolving economic and social tasks appeared.

Time has confirmed the timeliness and effectiveness of the measures outlined by the party and the government. In the previous and current 5-year plans R53 billion in capital investments has been assimilated in the non-Chernozem Zone -- almost twice as much as in the preceding 8 years. Farms' production base has grown stronger. Extensive land reclamation was a decisive component of the renewal. Since the start of the 10th 5-Year Plan 2.1 million hectares of improved land have been commissioned. Over 50,000 km of roads have been constructed.

The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and Extraordinary February (1984) Plenums and Comrade K.U. Chernenko's election speech have become a combat guide to action for the workers of the non-Chernozem Zone. The transformers of the area are striving to mark the 4th year of the 5-year plan with shock labor and production growth.

Man, as ever, is at the forefront. The party is setting the task of accelerating the social transformation of the countryside and creating working and living conditions corresponding to the lofty demands of the socialist way of life. This course is being persistently implemented. For example, in the past 8 years investment in restructuring the countryside is double what it was in the same preceding period. In this period 39 million square meters of housing has been commissioned in the non-Chernozem Zone, or over 60 apartments on average for every farm. Entire villages with every amenity have sprung up. Many schools, children's institutions, and houses of culture have been constructed. The non-Chernozem Zone workers are being helped to renew their area by people sent from all over the country. A substantial contribution to its transformations is being made by representatives of Uzbekistan, Belorussia, Latvia, and Kirghizia.

All the non-Chernozem Zone's autonomous republics and oblasts have fulfilled the grain purchase plans for the last 2 years. The volume of procurement of a number of other types of produce has grown. With only one-fifth of the total area of agricultural land in the RSFSR, the non-Chernozem Zone produces one-third of the gross output of the republic's fields and livestock farms, over 30 percent of its meat, and around 40 percent of its milk and eggs. The zone's kolkhozes and sovkhozes ended last year with a profit.

Life demands that we strengthen and develop the positive changes and make skillful use of the favorable economic situation created in the countryside since the CPSU Central Committee May (1982) Plenum in order to resolve still more large-scale tasks. The non-Chernozem Zone can and must become an area of highly developed arable farming and stockraising and significantly increase its contribution to the implementation of the country's Food Program.

There is much work ahead and the tasks are difficult. As a session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo held last October noted, the zone's agriculture is transferring only slowly to the intensive path of development.

A radical shift to comprehensive resolution of the problem of the social restructuring of the countryside has not been ensured and migration of the rural population continues to be high. Party organizations, local soviets, economic leaders, and labor collectives are called upon to increase the return on the resources invested.

The land demands special attention. In the hands of skilled masters the non-Chernozem Zone is generous in its returns. For instance, last year the Kuybyshev Kolkhoz in Gorkiy Oblast harvested 50 quintals of grain per hectare and Bryansk Oblast's Krasnyy Oktyabr sovkhoz harvested 285 quintals of potatoes per hectare. Milk yield per cow on Kalinin Oblast's 50-Letiye SSR Sovkhoz was 5,320 kg. An enormous quantity of additional produce could be obtained if everyone got closer to the standards set by the pacesetters! Meanwhile the gap remains considerable. Thus, hundreds of sovkhozes and kolkhozes are harvesting less than 10 quintals of grain per hectare. There has been a shortfall in deliveries to the state of millions of metric tons of potatoes, milk, and many other types of produce.

This is the result of poor organization and the low responsibility of a number of farm leaders and specialists for land use and the observance of plan discipline. Instances of a careless, formal attitude to field fertility are also encountered. Care is not taken about the quality of fertilizers and they are used any which way -- a tick goes down on the report but the returns are meager. Zonal systems of arable farming are being assimilated slowly. Often the resources allocated for measures linked with enriching the soil and increasing its fertility are poorly or incorrectly used. The farmers' partners -- the collectives of the All-Union Scientific Production Association for Agrochemical Services to Agriculture enterprises and water resource organizations -- are called on to give them more active help.

The social restructuring of the countryside is a decisive sector, and far from all reserves have been put to work here. Over the past 8 years millions of square meters of housing have not been commissioned on farms. Serious lags have been permitted in Vologda, Smolensk, Kostroma, and Kaliningrad Oblasts. This is largely the fault of the construction workers. USSR Ministry of Rural Construction organizations as yet have not taken the leading role here and try to choose projects that are easier and nearer to the cities. But it is necessary to go into the backwoods, which are especially in need of renewal.

Good rural roads, including farm roads, are exceptionally important for the non-Chernozem Zone. They are the economy's arteries. Many sovkhozes and kolkhozes in Tula, Korov, and Perm Oblasts are suffering considerable losses because of bad communications. The situation must be rectified more persistently.

The calendar shows the first month of spring. It is the duty of the area's farmers of arable land to be fully prepared for the sowing season. Above all, it is necessary to prepare equipment and seeds well, apply fertilizer to the fields, and select reliable cadres.

The transformation of the non-Chernozem Zone is a most important task for party organizations. They must seek to ensure that the successful fulfillment of the outlined program is a law of life for every collective and every working person. It is necessary to foster love of the land and a desire to make it richer and more beautiful.

Our entire country is participating in boosting the non-Chernozem Zone. This ancient area of the fatherland is full of strength and is suring toward the future.

PRAVDA ALLUDES TO FATAL CRASHES OF ARMY COPTERS

PM270916 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 84 First Edition p 6

[Article by special correspondent V. Verstakov under the rubric "We Serve the Soviet Union!": "Helicopter Crews in the Sky and on the Ground"]

[Text] This has been repeated thousands of times in his life. Crouching, he dove in the cabin, settled familiarly in the pilot's seat, and ran his eyes over the instruments, bu for a few seconds he was distracted by a sound behind him -- either the flight engineer retracting the steps, or the machine had simply rocked and something inside it had screeched: Things like that happen in helicopters. Having requested the "all clear" to start engines, Captain Vitaliy Pavlovich Zabirov, captain of the MI-8 helicopter, took off on his routine flight....

Helicopters appeared in our skies comparatively recently: The first mass-produced MI-1 machines entered service in the national economy and the country's Armed Forces in 1951.

It would not be inappropriate to recall that Soviet-produced helicopters, just like any other equipment capable of carrying arms or soldiers, were neither intended, nor designed, nor planned to be used as tools of aggression. There was a different approach in America. By the middle of World War II the U.S. Navy already had a Sikorskiy-made helicopter (admittedly only one) but in the very early fifties, during the aggressive Korean war, the Americans were managing to carry out large-scale helicopter-borne landings behind the costal defenses line.

The next U.S. war came -- in Vietnam -- and the aggressor's helicopters changed from means of transporation into tools of destruction. There were already many of them in Vietnam's skies: more than 2,000 by the middle of 1967. For the first time, fix-winged aircraft found themselves overshadowed by those with rotor blades; during the war's 8 years, U.S. aircraft flew about 3 million missions and helicopters fle eight times as many.

The defense interests of the land of the Soviets and of our allies demanded that a helicopter force be established in our Army and Navy that would be neither qualitatively nor quantitatively inferior to that of any possible aggressor. Today we have such a force.

...Zabirov flew his machine confidently, even somewhat casually, which, generally speaking, is not a fault in a professional for whom the flight is nothing but a routine staging operation: from airport to airport without any intermediate action. True, when he approached the mountains, Vitaliy probably sat up straighter in his seat: After all, flying over and between mountains is much more difficult -- there is restricted room for maneuvering, the air is rarefied, and the ground below, strange as this may seem, appears more monotonous than flatland. Yes, he was already flying above the mountains when he recalled the slight hitch before take-off, the noise behind him that distracted him during the routine instrument check. He was already flying above the mountains -- and this is all that I can now find out about the situation and those thoughts of Zabirov's. In actual fact, even if in other instances a journalist can find out (if at all) what a helicopter pilot thinks in flight, even if he is sitting right next to him, it can truly be done only afterwards, on the ground: The rotor noise is not conducive to communication. Mind you, I have yet to meet a talkative helicopter pilot even on the ground.

Actually, I am not overemphasizing the taciturnity of helicopter pilots. But I have observed very often instantaneous changes in mood. In long-distance aircraft, where flights last for hours and even dozens of hours, the mood of people is more stable. And the reason behind this, without any philosophizing, is simple: The helicopter pilots are closest to everything on the ground and, second, they sometimes find things far from easy in today's skies.

I was taken by helicopter to the mountains where the motorized infantry company commanded by Senior Lieutenant Bogdanov was operating. Since the reveille position of the motorized riflemen stretched over a steep slope, making landing almost impossible, the matter was taken in hand by the squadron commander himself, Major Aleksandr Prokudin -- inheritor of the duty and glory and, the main thing, the skills of Hero of the Soviet Union Vyacheslav Gaynutdinov, who had served here. We landed on the only relatively flat strip of land....

"We'll meet tonight!", Prokudin shouted on departure. "Sleep well!"

And there I was, lying in a shallow stony trench, convinced that the rendezvous had been postponed since there were no illuminated targets on the ground.

But the helicopters did come, nevertheless, motors clattering over our peak, flew somewhat to the south, and suddenly the sky over the nearby valley came alight with clusters of slowly falling bluish-white flares. The helicopters themselves were not to be seen: They flew their combat route to and above the lit zone, worked through their fire practice on the targets which were not lit, and banked steeply upward. I have observed on dozens of occasions the fire practice of helicopter gunships in large and small exercises, I have sat in helicopters when they have launched whole salvos of rocket shells and spat out a quadruple stream of fire from their large-caliber nose machineguns and I have watched in amazement the holes left in the ground by the shells fired at targets by the helicopter crews, but the terrifying might of helicopter gunships had never before stunned me as much as it did that night. Long yellow flames shot out silently above the glare of the flares, the helicopter's shadow could be glimpsed fleetingly before disappearing again in the sky, and only several seconds later, when the rockets had exploded in the valley, could one hear the clatter of their flight. The machineguns and the automatic grenade launchers on board did not fall silent for a single second in the sky, and for us, lying in the trenches, their salvos were something like a counterpoise to the rumble of helicopter rotors.

"A good piece of work by the 'whirlies,'" I remember Bogdanov, lying next to me, saying. "They do just as they please...."

And yet, the work done by the helicopter pilots can be appreciated better and in more detail when one flies with them, rather than on the ground. I recall that in the early eighties I had an opportunity to fly in Vitaliy Zabirov's machine over dangerous and very high mountains, where access was possible only along ravines and where the work had to be done under any circumstances. Zabirov's crew worked, and the several officers in the passenger cabin also worked. And I made my way to the helicopter's tail, to the wide-open stern porthole, feeling extremely restless, the way any journalist feels on finding himeself in the thick of some work in which you, as a journalist, cannot participate for some reason or other. But you do have the right, and even the duty, to see more than the participants in the work themselves. And at one point I saw only vertical rocks through all the portholes and even ahead of us, through the cockpit windshield. There was no sky to be seen and we were flying straight into extinction.

Honestly speaking, I wanted to shout out, to warn, to bring the pilot to his senses. But maybe suddenly the helicopter would manage the impossible -- stop immediately in the air and fly backward. The helicopter could not manage the impossible, equipment in general is incapable of managing it, only people can do that. Running the risk of overturning the machine, Zabirov banked steeply upward. After 10 seconds a strip of sky could be seen above, a few moments later the mountain ridge was beneath the wheels, and we were above all disasters. Later on at the airfield, the excitement of work turned into excitement of recollections, but I still could not hear the helicopter pilots' voices in the general conversation. Zabirov was standing on one side and answered all my questions with a single sentence:

"I got slightly carried away."

Meanwhile, about a year later, I learned through mutual acquaintances that Vitaliy nevertheless remembered and described that flight on many occasions.

And so, reticence is not the only distinguishing feature of today's military helicopter pilot. Reticence and a certain amount of tension mean a foreboding or consequence of trials.

"Greetings, editorial office workers! My name is Olya. The point is that I am very agitated since I have not written to you before, and I am writing about my, how shall I put it, very close friend whose name I read in one of your features. He was serving in the Army and his name was Kasym Khamitovich Davletalin. Very little was written about him, and I would like to know more about what happened and how Kasym looked."

I of course answered Olga's letter and told her how everything happened, but somehow could not make up my mind about the way to answer about how Kasym looked at his last airfield. The point is that he looked like... a helicopter pilot about to begin work. I simply could not think of another phrase, and this one was difficult to explain in a letter.

A pair of Mi-8's flew into the small airstrip near our mountain camp at 0600 hours. The landing party had expected them somewhat later, therefore those who were flying off to do their work had no time for breakfast or calisthenics. The departing party was not large, so I was offered a seat in either helicopter. I chose the first, whose navigator-pilot (the "right-seat guy" in Army language, in other words the one sitting in the right-hand seat) was Kasym. There is no time to strike up an acquaintance in the sky and so, having waited for the professional conversation between pilots and landing force to finish, I quickly wrote down a list of the crew "under the wings," or rather under the rotor blades. I had difficulty with the navigator-pilot's surname, and especially his patronymic. The helicopter captain, Captain Viktor Mokretsov, joked good-naturedly but with a slight edge to his voice.

"He's been flying a long time, but all in all he still is rude at times."

Kasym smiled weakly and... did not laugh it off. I was suddenly transferred to the second, the leading helicopter, and only 10 minutes later was looking down from the sky on Mokretsov's twisted machine which had fallen into the narrow ravine, remembering Kasym's last smile and fatefully expecting the fallen helicopter, with its tanks completely full, to catch fire and explode at any minute.

But no, it did not burn. During the few last moments which fate at times grant to military helicopter pilots, the third crew member, flight engineer Petr Borovkov, managed to switch off the engines. The fuel did not catch fire. The landing party on board survived.

...How I would like to mention many more names and describe the routine, in other words the happy flights by the helicopter pilots! And to sing the praises of the equipment used by our helicopter pilots, which is, perhaps, the best in the world. Or to recall the feats accomplished without losses - I know many of them and the pilots' heroism in those instances was of equal caliber. Helicopters are altogether very beautiful and fascinating. And at times even funny.

The commander of one of the Belorussian Military District's helicopter regiments proudly took me round the instruction building, but as we entered a classroom he suddenly lost his temper:

"They've been drawing the cat again! And they are totally incapable of drawing a cat! Kids!"

Looking more closely at the illustrated display stand, I could indeed discern a drawing of a black cat dressed in summer uniform. It transpired that the young helicopter pilot officers had secretly chosen for themselves an unofficial mascot, slipping it from time to time in the most unexpected places as a practical joke on their commanders. And the commanders in helicopter units are themselves young and not averse to practical jokes.

On another occasion, during another visit to another group of helicopter pilots, I spent an evening at their prefabricated panel hostel on the edge of an airfield close to the desert, listened to plenty of demonstrative complaints against the enthusiastic naivete and technical ignorance of journalists writing about the Air Force and, in revenge, voiced my doubts about a specimen of local exotic fauna: a scorpion that had been caught the night before on the floor and was now sealed in a bottle. The young helicopter pilots made angry noises to the effect that this was a real scorpion through and through and that it was captured right there, but the squadron commander suddenly supported me:

"The journalist is right. Our scorpion is not particularly good, and we are to blame for this, comrades. It is obvious that something had been left in the bottle, the animal got drunk, and has lost its human appearance."

It is a pity that I got to that squadron a little too late -- a lad that used to serve there used to compose and sing some quite good songs about helicopter pilots. He was a flight engineer, but described himself otherwise in his songs: "I fly as flight gunner on a helicopter...."

The regiment where the young pilots drew the cat also, of course, produced serious encounters and confessions. A rather young right-seat pilot told me face to face that he would like to leave the Army because he had two children, a sick mother, and a student sister and that with his special training he could bring much more into the family in civilian life.

I am not counterposing servicemen and civilians, and even less the helicopter pilots who are members of a single labor fraternity of the skies. But, in my opinion, it is still much too soon to consider the country's defense less complex and, forgive me, less well-paid work.

Yes, military helicopter pilot Vitaliy Zabirov, a taciturn guy and airborne fighter, will no longer take off into the sky. I know that his interrupted flight and the cause of his life will be continued by thousands of new heroes. And yet, and yet.... An absurd and fateful coincidence? A confluence of tragic circumstances? The second, more than likely. And these circumstances include something apparently unimportant but depending on all us people living on our fathers' earth: We have given our helicopter pilots good equipment and have sent them to fly, to work and defend the country, and, earthbound, have returned to our exclusively earthly concerns. But up there, in the sky, you need definitely to know that you are remembered and understood, loved and awaited.

...This feature does not quite say everything I know about Vitaliy Pavlovich's last flight, some things have willy-nilly been simplified, while some details have been invented by me. This is why I decided at the last moment to slightly change the name of my feature's hero. I think that Vitaliy would understand and forgive me. His favorite description of himself was: "I am a helicopter pilot."